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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 30

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2013

www.saipantribune.com

75¢



OPINION METER

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Do you support postponing this year's scheduled 50-cent minimum wage increase in the CNMI?

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LOCAL



Eight young ladies are confirmed to join the Ms. *Pusong Pinoy*.

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ASIA



A Philippine town plans to hold funeral rites for world's largest croc.

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Mumford & Sons takes home the album of the year at the Grammys.

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**\$250K bail for mother who allegedly stabbed baby. PAGE 3
'Misclassified' NMC faculty members earning more. PAGE 6**

IN A FIRST FOR ANY US TERRITORY

Fitial impeached on 13 charges

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI turned a new page in its political history yesterday when the 18th House of Representatives impeached Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on 13 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty, setting up a first trial of its kind in the Senate on whether the governor should be removed from the post he has held for seven years so far.

Five more articles of impeachment will be voted on by the House today, although Fitial can be convicted by the Senate on any of the 18 total charges.

"Today we rewrite our political history and shape our political destiny," House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), the

See **IMPEACHED** on Page 4

What happens next?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has already been impeached by the House of Representatives but it will be during a trial at the Senate that will determine whether he will be removed from office, lawmakers said yesterday.

It will also be at the Senate trial where the governor will be given the chance to defend himself, with the help of his legal team. He will not be represented by the Office of the Attorney General, which recommended that he hire private counsel for the trial.

In the United States and its territories such as the CNMI, impeachment is the Legislature's expressed power that allows for formal charges against a civil officer of government for crimes committed in office; in this case, the governor.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House of Representatives members review documents or confer with their colleagues during a short recess in their session yesterday, wherein they impeached Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on 13 charges of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty. Five more charges will be voted on by the House today.

Pope in surprise resignation

VATICAN CITY—The Vatican says that Pope Benedict XVI will resign on Feb. 28. The announcement Monday was a surprise.

The 85-year-old became Pope Benedict XVI in April 2005 following the death of John Paul II.

The reasons behind the head of the Catholic Church's surprise resignation

have yet to emerge.

Resignations from the papacy are not unknown, but this is the first in the modern era, which has been marked by pontiffs dying while in office.

At 78, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was one of the oldest new popes in history when elected.

See **POPE** on Page 4



Ex-OPM chief arrested for alleged sex abuse

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Tenorio

Police arrested over the weekend former representative Juan Iguel Tenorio for allegedly sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in As Matuus.

Police officer Jeffrey Norita served the arrest warrant on the 64-year-old

Tenorio in As Matuus Saturday night on charges of sexual assault in the second degree, assault and battery, sexual assault of a minor in second degree, and disturbing the peace.

Tenorio was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman for his initial court appearance yes-

See **ABUSE** on Page 4

Local

NMC posts lower revenue in FY 2012

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College saw a significant decline in its revenue collection but noted an increase in its foundation monies in fiscal year 2012.

According to NMC dean of administration Dave Attao, the college posted major financial losses last fiscal year when its revenues totaled only \$17.6

million as opposed to fiscal year 2011's revenue of \$21.2 million.

In last week's Board of Regents meeting, Attao disclosed that the losses were due to a reduction in CNMI appropriation, which only totaled \$3.7 million last fiscal year compared to 2011's \$4.3 million. He also cited the loss of federal grants and indirect cost revenues after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act monies closed

out last fiscal year.

Saipan Tribune learned that NMC received \$3 million from ARRA's state fiscal stabilization fund in fiscal year 2011 compared to only \$425,000 last fiscal year. After losing these federal grants, he said the college reprogrammed money from its tuition and fees to cover expenses.

NMC, he said, generated \$4.2 million from student tuition and

Buckingham admits power deal provides for \$190.8M payment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham has admitted that the controversial power purchase agreement he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed provides for a payment of \$190,827,300.

Buckingham, through counsel assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington, said a document purporting to be a "Power Purchase Agreement" was signed on Aug. 3, 2012.

Buckingham submitted last Jan. 29 in Superior Court his answer to the second amended complaint filed by the Senate and Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and then representative

and now Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan).

The Senate, Maratita, and Yumul are suing Fitial, Buckingham, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC over an alleged illegal \$190.8-million power purchase agreement deal.

In Buckingham's answer, Brasington denied the plaintiffs' allegations that CUC officials were not aware of the power purchase deal.

The former AG also admitted that that a document purporting to be a Power Plant Development and Management Agreement was signed on March 27, 2012, and that it was for a term of 40 years.

Buckingham admitted that

that the Power Plant Development and Management Agreement contains provisions claiming that the document may not be terminated without cause or without the mutual written consent and approval of the parties.

Buckingham also admitted that the Power Plant Development and Management Agreement claims that the law governing the agreement is the law of the State of Delaware.

Buckingham also admitted that the "Option to Lease Agreement" was signed on Aug. 3, 2012.

The plaintiffs want the court to declare the 25-year power purchase agreement "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

fees last fiscal year.

Attao also reported a decline in the number of international students last fiscal year and dwindling donations to the college. All figures were unaudited as of last week.

In terms of expenditures, Attao reported that the college incurred \$17.3 million in total expenses last fiscal year, of which \$7.2 million went to personnel wages and benefits. In fiscal year 2011, NMC posted total expenses of \$19.6 million.

Meantime, Attao revealed that the NMC Foundation account recorded a growth of 15.8 percent. In fiscal year 2011, the account had a total value of \$5.3 million. This went up to \$6.1 million, or an increase of over \$842,000, in fiscal year 2012.

Governor OKs over-the-cap salary of AAG

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified and approved the over-the-cap salary of assistant attorney general Ghassan Harb.

In a Feb. 6 letter to Senate President Jude Hofsneider (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), the governor said Harb will receive an annual salary of \$52,000.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at \$50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling and submit a certification to the Legislature.

"By copy of this letter, I am also advising the chairman of the Civil Service Commission of this certification," Fitial told the Legislature.

Most of the over-the-cap salaries are for attorneys at the Office of the Attorney General and physicians and other medical personnel at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

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Governor's nominees

In other news, the governor submitted to the Senate on Feb. 6 most of the required documents to support his Jan. 31 nominations of Douglas Hartig to serve as CNMI public defender and Martin B. Ada to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust.

The governor submitted copies of their resumes, statements of financial interest, police clearances, and drug test receipts to the Senate.

The governor said the administration will submit Hartig and Ada's drug test results as soon as they become available.

Their nominations require the advice and consent of the Senate.

If confirmed, Ada will serve a six-year term that will expire on Jan. 8, 2018.

\$250K bail for mother who allegedly stabbed her baby

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested the mother who allegedly stabbed her 2-month-old baby at their home in Chalan Kanoa Saturday night.

Loretta R. Feria, 27, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for her initial appearance on charges of attempted murder, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and child abuse or neglect.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman kept Feria's bail at \$250,000 cash and set the preliminary hearing on Feb. 21. Feria will be arraigned on Feb. 25.

Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti was appointed to represent Feria.

Acting police spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said that police



Wiseman

received a call about a stabbing incident on Saturday at 8:48pm.

Blas said the medics who responded to the scene immediately called for patrol officers after discovering that the victim was a 2-month-old baby girl.

Blas said the mother, Feria, admitted to the officers at the scene that she stabbed her baby. She was arrested and taken to

the Department of Corrections.

The baby was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where she was treated for a stab wound in the abdomen, a laceration in the neck, and abrasions on the left wrist. She was later listed in stable condition.

Police detective Jesse K. Seaman stated in his report that a police officer who responded to the scene saw the baby's father crying while carrying the infant inside an ambulance.

Feria allegedly told a police officer that she stabbed her baby and repeatedly stated that she wanted to kill herself.

The baby's father told police that Feria called him at work at 7:30pm that day and told him to come home because there was an emergency. She refused to tell him the emergency and just told him to go home.

When the husband arrived home, he saw his wife crying, then heard their baby crying. When he

then checked the bedroom he saw bloodstains on the infant's clothes.

The husband took his wife, the infant, and their other two children to the Commonwealth Health Center. At CHC's parking lot, Feria refused to go inside the hospital and asked him to drive them to her mother's house in Garapan.

Upon arriving at her mother's house, the husband told his brother-in-law that Feria had stabbed their baby. The brother-in-law then called for an ambulance.

'CHC has stable number of doctors'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center and the health centers on Tinian and Rota have a stable number of physicians, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta.



Babauta

He said the corporation is actively looking for a doctor to fill the vacant position at the Tinian clinic. The health center lost its permanent doctor when Dr. Frank Pair passed away last month. Since then, midlevel provider Arley Long has been providing 24-hour coverage for the people of the island.

The corporation earlier disclosed plans to temporarily transfer one of the two doctors on Rota to Tinian. There has been no decision on this matter at this time.

The 20 physicians at CHC include three doctors for internal medicine; three physicians at the emergency room; four pediatricians; two for the OB-Gyne department; one for nephrology; two surgeons; one for psychiatry; two anesthesiologists; and one for gastroenterology.

Babauta said the corporation employs a total of 22 doctors with only one physician working on a part-time basis.

Of this number, 20 are at CHC, while two are assigned to the Rota Health Center.

Despite the absence of a permanent doctor at the Tinian Health Center, it has a midlevel provider who functions under the direct supervision of physicians at CHC,

TO MINIMIZE EMPLOYEES' GRIEVANCES

CSC eyes executive management training for new administrators

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Civil Service Commission wants to conduct periodic executive management trainings for every incoming government administration to ensure department heads are knowledgeable and updated on the rules and regulations of their respective agencies.

Commission executive director Andrew Orsini told *Saipan Tribune* that the training is intended for all incoming expenditure authorities of government agencies.

Orsini, who has been with the commission for over 17 years, said that many of the cases filed with the commission mostly deal with alleged illegal suspension and termination. He is convinced that an executive management training will minimize, if not alleviate, grievances of government employees.

According to him, lapses and problems usually arise due to "misinterpretation" of rules and policies, resulting in the

filing of grievance cases.

There are currently 40 pending cases before the commission, majority of which involve alleged unlawful suspension and termination.

CSC plans to bring in experts for this planned executive training.

Orsini admitted, however, that this plan cannot be implemented without the necessary budget.

He disclosed that the commission and the Office of Personnel Management will seek a \$1.6-million budget for fiscal year 2014 in order to carry out all the mandates of Public Law 17-80, which returned OPM under the Civil Service Commission.

Orsini disclosed that the budget for the commission and OPM were either reduced or eliminated outright in the past because of its non-functioning board of directors.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are about 17 personnel under these two offices, a significant reduction from previous years' more than 30 employees.

Besides these doctors, the corporation also has a number of physician assistants. *Saipan Tribune* learned that there are for PAs for the emergency room; and one at the Family

Care Clinic.

The number of physicians, however, keeps changing as a result of retirement, resignation, relocation, and other reasons, according to Babauta. *Saipan Tribune* learned that among the physicians who recently left the hospital are Drs. Jeremiah and Christine Cranks and Dr. Ruben Arafiles.

CHC had about 27 to 30 doctors in the past. A number have resigned since 2011 as a result of uncertainties at the public hospital due to the government's

worsening financial crisis.

On the nurses' side, the corporation seems to have abated the exodus of nurses, with a total of 160 nurses currently on board. This number is expected to increase, pending the recruitment of nine more nurses.

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IMPEACHED

From Page 1

main author of the impeachment resolution, said the governor's impeachment in the House is one thing; a conviction by the Senate is another.

Fitial, 68, is the first CNMI governor to be impeached. He is also the first governor of any U.S. territory to be the subject of impeachment.

If the CNMI Senate convicts him on at least one of the 18 charges, Fitial would become only the ninth United States governor to be impeached and removed from office; the last was Illinois's Rod Blagojevich in 2009.

Saipan Tribune learned that the governor visited Rota on the eve of the House's impeachment vote, for his Republican Party's appreciation party on island, along with senators.

At least six affirmative votes in the nine-member Senate are needed to convict Fitial on any of the 18 articles of impeachment.

Facebook was immediately abuzz soon after the first article was adopted, generating comments that were mostly supportive of the impeachment.

Articles adopted

During yesterday's House session, the governor was impeached by a vote of 16-4 on 12 charges.

He was impeached by a vote of 16-3 with one abstention from minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) for conflict of interest on one charge.

Camacho's brother was the delegate candidate that former attorney general Edward Buckingham hosted at the governor's private residence in 2010, and is among the issues in the impeachment resolution.

The articles adopted by the House yesterday included those in connection with the unauthorized release of a federal inmate to give the governor a massage at his private residence in the wee hours of the morning in January 2010, and the signing of a sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

The House also impeached him yesterday on charges related to the awarding of a sole-source ARRA management contract worth almost \$400,000; failure to remove a former attorney general for violation of federal and local election laws; conspiring with others to shield the same former AG, now a fugitive from justice, from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him; and failure to timely appoint members of the Civil Service Commission.

Fitial's four allies in the House—Camacho, Reps. Felicidad Ogunmoro (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), and Richard Seman (R-Saipan)—defended the governor by mostly blaming others for the governor's decisions that led to the charges of corruption, commission

POPE

From Page 1

He took the helm as one of the fiercest storms the Catholic Church has faced in decades - the scandal of child sex abuse by priests - was breaking.

Pope Benedict XVI will be the first head of the Catholic Church to resign in almost 600 years. The Vatican said his departure would leave the post temporarily vacant.

The 85-year-old's resignation letter said: "After having repeatedly examined

of a felony, and neglect of duty.

The four voted "no" to the articles of impeachment deliberated on yesterday. In one article, Camacho recused himself.

Yesterday's session was marked by heated debates between the Fitial-aligned minority bloc and those from the leadership. Tempers flared as both sides tried to argue their position.

Only at least 14 affirmative votes are needed to move the impeachment process to the Senate for trial.

Sixteen co-authors of the impeachment resolution voted "yes" to each of the 13 articles yesterday, more than the required two-thirds vote.

The "yes" votes came from House

HOW THEY VOTED

Here's how House members voted on each of 13 articles of impeachment against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that were deliberated on yesterday:

YES

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan)
Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan)
Floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan)
Rep. Anthony Benavente (IR-Saipan)
Rep. Roman Benavente (IR-Saipan)
Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian)
Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan)
Rep. Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan)
Rep. John P. Sablan (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan)
Rep. Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan)
Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan)
Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan)

NO

Minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) *
Rep. Felicidad Ogunmoro (R-Saipan)
Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota)
Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan)

*Camacho abstained from voting on one of the 13 articles voted on yesterday because of conflict of interest.

Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Reps. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan), Anthony Benavente (IR-Saipan), Roman Benavente (IR-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), John P. Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan).

Objections

The minority bloc submitted to the full House yesterday their eight-page position on the impeachment resolution, saying they "object" to the articles of

ined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry.

"I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering.

"However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel,

impeachment.

Fitial's allies questioned the use of evidence and information obtained by the 17th Legislature and retained as House property for the impeachment resolution introduced in the current 18th Legislature.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) asked whether statutes prohibit this, and the House counsels said "no."

The minority bloc also wanted Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) to be recused from participating in the impeachment process or, in the alternative, on Article 9 of the resolution, because Maratita filed a taxpayers' lawsuit against the governor and others over their signing of a \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Maratita said there is no conflict of interest, and that she is not financially benefiting from the lawsuit she filed on behalf of taxpayers.

In their defense of the governor, the Fitial-aligned minority pointed out that, on Article 1, a charge of felony related to the federal inmate's unauthorized release for the governor's private massage, it was the former Corrections commissioner who decided to "take matter in her own hands" as shown by her testimony to bring the inmate to the governor's private residence.

Fitial said he only learned of his masseuse's incarceration on or about Jan. 8, 2010, when he was trying to reach her. At the time, the governor said he was experiencing excruciating back pain that only his masseuse could temporarily relieve.

House leadership members, including the speaker, vice speaker, Sablan, and Rep. Cris Leon Guerrero, separately said the fact of the matter is that the governor instigated the release of a federal inmate and he benefited from that unauthorized release by receiving a massage from that inmate in his private residence.

Hours were spent just on this matter, which was a subject of five articles of impeachment.

Public comments

Former governor and representative Froilan Tenorio was the first among seven individuals to stand up and address the House members during the public comment period at the beginning of the session.

"The attempt to impeach Gov. Benigno Fitial is a misguided use of a raw political power that will bring shame to the Commonwealth and negatively affect our democracy for years to come," Tenorio said.

He said there is no doubt that the new House majority has the votes to impeach the governor.

"The question is whether they should do so. They should not, and here is why," he said, as he went on to cite his reasons.

He said impeachment should be reserved "for proven violations of the most serious offenses" and only be used "to protect the people of the Commonwealth,

both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognise my incapacity to adequately fulfil the ministry entrusted to me."

He will step down after almost eight years in the post, having been elected in April 2005.

The final post on his Twitter page, sent on Sunday, said: "We must trust in the mighty power of God's mercy. We are all sinners, but His grace transforms us and makes us new." (Reuters)

not for a political vendetta."

"The rest of the world will look at us as no better than countries where political power ranks higher than the rule of law," he said.

Florence Sablan, a private citizen, made reference to the "heavenly father" phrase that another individual used during her testimony last year, referring to the governor.

Sablan said if the governor is the "earthly father, he should obey laws."

"This is the body that passes laws and the governor signs it into laws. And he is expected to obey laws. That's why I'm supporting the impeachment and maybe when we were more active in the past, it would have happened to another governor [too]," she added.

Former representative Joseph Palacios said any Tom, Dick, and Harry can bring the governor to court if they think he committed wrongdoing. He said the governor is not "perfect."

During deliberation by House members, Seman also said, "The governor is not god, he cannot see everything in a perfect manner."

The others who made public comments supported impeaching the governor, including Glen Hunter, Luis John Castro, and Ray Quichoco.

Hunter thanked the 16 House mem-

bers "who displayed fully that our community is no longer ruled by fear at the hands of an abusive, neglectful, and tyrannical leader. I am positive that after the display of professionalism and the thorough research and documentation provided by the Special Committee that the senators will now do the right thing."

The House minority leader, Camacho, told reporters said he hopes that the senators would have "higher standards than we have here."

Hunter said it was "a bit disheartening watching the minority members."

The crowd in the House chamber and gallery was much thinner compared to the first time the House voted on a similar impeachment resolution in October 2012.

Among those in the gallery was 80-year-old Jose Guerrero, of Fina Sisu, saying he came to Capitol Hill "to watch the proceedings, the voting on impeachment."

"At my age, I can only be a witness, not a participant. I am glad to see the younger generation at work," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*. He said the CNMI "made history today."

Department of Public Safety police officers were visible, to ensure safety and security.

ABUSE

From Page 1

terday afternoon.

In issuing the warrant, Wiseman imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on Tenorio. At yesterday's hearing, the judge converted the \$50,000 cash bail to a property bond.

Wiseman noted that Tenorio is not a flight risk and has no criminal history.

Tenorio's wife, Rosita, was named his third-party custodian.

Tenorio will only be released from jail after all papers are submitted in connection with his two lands as property bond.

Once he posts bail, the former congressman will be placed on house arrest and is directed to have no contact with any children below 18 years old, even at work.

Attorney Robert T. Torres appeared

NEXT

From Page 1

The actual trial on the charges against Fitial, and his subsequent removal on conviction on those charges, is separate from the act of impeachment itself.

If Fitial is convicted by the Senate on any of the charges, he automatically loses his seat and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will assume the governor's post. The Senate president then becomes lieutenant governor.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the Senate will be ready to handle the impeachment process.

Depending on the rules that the full Senate will adopt upon recommendation of the Special Senate Committee on Impeachment headed by Senate Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), the governor could have a week or two to respond to the president's letter about the adopted House impeachment resolution before trial begins.

Torres said last night that the special committee will meet again tomorrow to further discuss the draft rules that will govern the process at the Senate.

It is not known yet when the committee will be able to finalize the rules for full Senate adoption.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela

Cruz (IR-Saipan) said, "What happens in the Senate, we have no control over."

He said depending on the speaker and the leadership's decision, some members of the House—maybe four of them—will serve as "managers" or "prosecutors" during the trial at the Senate.

But because the Senate has yet to come up with rules, there is no telling whether this will be allowed.

The House impeached the governor on 13 charges of felony, corruption and neglect of duty yesterday. Five more articles of impeachment will be voted on today.

But while all the 18 articles are expected to be adopted by the House, the governor can be convicted by the Senate on any of those 18 charges.

At least two-thirds or six affirmative votes are needed in the nine-member Senate to convict the governor.

Private citizens interviewed said they hope the Senate will "also do the right thing," by convicting the governor. House minority bloc members said there is "insufficient evidence" in the impeachment resolution and shouldn't be adopted by the House in the first place.

Fitial is the first CNMI governor and the first from the U.S. territories to be impeached. If he is convicted in the Senate, he will only be the ninth governor in the United States to be removed from office.

Pilot program lures 12 conservation students to NMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelve Northern Arizona University students are learning more about conservation biology in the CNMI as part of a pilot study-abroad program, which could pave the way for "mutual" internship opportunities.

Dr. Nashelly Meneses of Northern Arizona University's Center for International Education said their group arrived in mid-December and will be staying until the end of next month. The program is in partnership with the CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Fish & Wildlife.

"Most of our studies are going to be focused here on Saipan," she said, adding that their group has also taken trips to the islands of Tinian and Rota.

Meneses noted that the "very unique" geographical location, culture, and natural resources of the Northern Marianas make the islands a great location for the study of conservation biology.

"It's like a natural laboratory where students can learn about different species and their conservation challenges," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Meneses said they were hop-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Visiting students from the Northern Arizona University smile for a group photo during a break at the 2013 Marine Protected Areas Workshop at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa on Jan. 29. Led by Dr. Nashelly Meneses, left, the students are currently on island to learn more about conservation biology as part of a study-abroad program.

ing to have only about six or seven participants but ended up getting 12.

"This is our first year and we accepted students from different levels," she said. "It has been a little bit challenging because the students are at different levels. However, we were blessed with a really great cohort of students."

According to Meneses, the

12 "young scientists" are learning about conservation biology on different species, including Mariana fruit bats, giant clams, and even medicinal plants.

One of the students, Monique Brown, said her work is focused on sea turtles and their beach preference, working alongside the sea turtle staff of DFW.

Brown agreed that the Commonwealth has a lot of potential

for the study of biology. "I've never worked with a traditional culture before. The whole sea turtle being a cultural delicacy has really played in how to manage sea turtles. It's really interesting to learn that aspect," said the graduating student.

During the duration of their stay, Meneses said they also have had the opportunity to get to know the Environmental and

Natural Resources Organization or ENRO from the Northern Marianas College, and to attend the 2013 Marine Protected Areas Workshop last Jan. 29.

"It's incredible the amount of awareness and the willingness of people to conserve their natural resources," she stated.

Meneses said they are grateful for the warm accommodation and overwhelming re-

sponse afforded them by the people they have worked with throughout their stay.

"The sense of community that these islands have is something that these students were not exposed to. This is something that's not very common in the mainland," said Meneses, adding that they plan to share the results of their study with the public before they leave.

Santos asks for cease and desist order vs GPPC ship

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) asked Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas on Friday to evaluate a GPPC ship docked at Rota East Harbor and issue a cease and desist order against the company. Santos cited four reasons for her request.

GPPC, for its part, said that as of yesterday, they have yet to receive notification about the letter addressed to the AG.

Santos said she received concerns from Rota residents about the ship docked at Rota East Harbor that unloaded heavy equipment and other items on Thursday.

The lawmaker said she spoke with the Department of Public Lands' Ray Salas, who she said informed her that GPPC's Diego Blanco was given "verbal approval to do a one-time dry run of the ship docking at the Rota East Harbor."

Santos said she is "gravely concerned about this activity."

"First of all, does the DPL acting secretary have the power to authorize GPPC to dock its ship at the East Harbor?" Santos asked the AG.

She said in her understanding, former DPL secretary Oscar Babauta issued a letter in response to Sen. Juan Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) Senate Bill 17-66 opposing the designation of the Rota East Harbor to the municipality as a result of a Supreme Court ruling.

That ruling, said Santos,



Santos

states that "all revenues derived from public land leases shall go to DPL for its administrative operation and a certain percentage to MPLT. Further, that any person must first obtain lease agreement, permit, authorization and/or permission from Public Lands prior to entering any public lands. Additionally, the Municipality of Rota does not have the authority to authorize or permit any vessel to enter thru the East Harbor."

Moreover, she said the East Harbor has not been approved for commercial use by the U.S. Coast Guard.

It is not an official CNMI port of entry and there are no safety features or equipment at the East Harbor available in case of accidents, Santos said.

"There is no legal reason for any ship to dock at the East Harbor when the West Harbor is open for business," she added.

The lawmaker said the third reason for her letter is that after the GPPC ship offloaded its contents, they attempted to load "truckloads of Rota bottled water from the Rota Resort Hotel onto

the ship to bring back to Saipan."

Santos said the CNMI has laws and regulations "regarding when and where ships may dock, when they may offload their containers, and when they must pay taxes and other fees for such activities."

"Lastly, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other relevant government agencies were not notified of the ship's intent to dock at the Rota East Harbor. By docking at the East Harbor, the GPPC ship may be circumventing the payment of taxes, port and other fees payable to the CNMI government and its agencies," she added.

Because the letter was sent only on Friday, the lawmaker has yet to receive a response from the AG.

control of all ports of entry in the CNMI."

It is not an official CNMI port of entry and there are no safety features or equipment at the East Harbor available in case of accidents, Santos said.

"There is no legal reason for any ship to dock at the East Harbor when the West Harbor is open for business," she added.

The lawmaker said the third reason for her letter is that after the GPPC ship offloaded its contents, they attempted to load "truckloads of Rota bottled water from the Rota Resort Hotel onto



NOAA announces public hearings to be held for the proposed rule to list 66 coral species as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

NOAA FISHERIES
Pacific Islands Region

Public hearings will be held at the following locations on the date and time provided:

Guam Hilton, Hagatna
202 Hilton Road, Tumon Bay, Guam 96913
February 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Multipurpose Room on Beach Road, Susupe
Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950
February 12, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Fleming Hotel, Tinian
P.O. Box 68 Tinian, MP 96952
February 13, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Mayor's Office, Rota
Tatachog Road, Rota, CNMI 96951
February 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Each hearing will include an initial town hall style meeting for the public to review materials and ask questions, followed by a formal hearing to submit public testimony. The full text of the proposed rule and supplemental documents can be found at www.regulations.gov or at www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_coral.html#supplemental_docs

For a full schedule of the public hearings please visit: www.fpir.noaa.gov

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'Misclassified' NMC faculty members earning more

»Regents urged to adopt \$41K minimum salary for full-time faculty

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A number of full-time members of the instructional faculty of the Northern Marianas College have been found to be "misclassified," resulting in them getting higher salaries than their correct rate.

NMC human resource officer Christopher Timmons disclosed this to the Board of Regents at its last meeting, and he proposed the adoption of a new \$41,500

per year minimum salary for full-time faculty members.

Sources disclosed that based on a review of the salaries of faculty members against their credentials and work experiences, about 18 full-time faculty members were found to be misclassified, majority of whom are receiving salaries in excess of the maximum provided for their grade.

Under the existing board policy, salaries shall be fixed at the

first step of the appropriate pay level upon the initial appointment. If a higher salary is necessary to recruit, the policy dictates that it may be fixed at any succeeding step but not over the eighth step for staff positions and not over the 12th step for faculty members.

It was learned that the first step in Grade 32 is \$25,962. The college's lowest paid full-time faculty member is currently paid about \$39,000.

Timmons' proposal is to fix the salary at any succeeding step within the appropriate grade if a higher rate is deemed necessary to hire a candidate. For those between the eighth and 12th grades, the salary would be subject to the president's approval.

According to Timmons, once the proposal is adopted, this would be immediately applied to existing faculty members who are currently earning less and for the new hires.

The proposal is targeted to be budgeted under the fiscal year 2014 budget.

At a recent meeting, Timmons asked the board for a waiver for a nursing instructor applicant so the candidate can be given a higher salary. The position is among the hard-to-fill posts at the college.

This was, however, strongly opposed by some regents, saying a waiver would both be unfair and unjust to other college

employees.

The board has yet to decide on the matter.

For Timmons, the current salary schedule creates an overwhelming inequity for qualified applicants. If the existing policy is to be followed, the new nursing instructor will be paid \$25,000 and will be the lowest paid instructor at the college. This is significantly lower than the highest paid instructor at the nursing department who has a lesser degree but receives over \$40,000 per year.

59 kids benefit from SDA Clinic's Give Kids A Smile

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic provided dental services amounting close to \$15,000 during its Give Kids A Smile event last Friday.

Now on its fifth year, the annual event is held in observance of the National Children's Dental Health Month, which seeks to raise awareness of the importance of oral health care among the youth.

SDA Clinic dental hygienist Lori Serna said a total of 59 children were served by about 20 staffers during the event, with some of the youngster's families falling in line as early as 5am.

Services included dental exams, extractions, fillings, and fluoride treatment, among others.

"We were expecting more kids than we accommodated, but that's okay," Serna said.

Siblings Kaye Anne Costales, 3, and Mark Ryan Costales, 5, were accompanied by their mother Jessica Ortiz of Chalan Piao, arriving at the site at about 8:30am.

Ortiz said they regularly avail



Photo above shows Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic's Dr. Kenneth Pierson and dental assistant Gina Mercado attending to Kevin Yang, while right photo shows dental hygienist Stacy Stroup checking the mouth of 3-year-old Kaye Anne Costales as assistant Shun Ji Jin looks on during the Give Kids A Smile last Friday.

of the free dental services offered each year by the SDA Clinic.

"It's a lot of help, especially since Medicaid is no longer accepted to pay for dental services," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Give Kids A Smile is only one of the many activities that

the SDA Clinic has lined up as part of the National Children's Dental Health Month celebration this February.

Serna said that there will also be school presentations, billboard advertisements, and newspaper articles focusing on ways to prevent dental health problems.

Serna revealed that children get cavities within six months of having their first tooth.

"I think the problem is sugar," said Serna, explaining that parents allow their youngsters to drink juices and other fluids



containing sugar, which is very bad for teeth.

The intake of fruit juices should be limited and children should be encouraged to drink only milk and water, Serna added.

She also emphasized that parents need to take charge of brushing their children's teeth.

"Children really can't do a good job brushing their teeth until at least 9 years old," she said.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that the Board will have a meeting on Friday, February 15, 2013, in Tinian. The meeting will commence at 10:00am.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters –
 - 1. Roll Call
- II. Call to Order
- III. Adoption of Minutes
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
 - 1. Adoption of Rules and Regulations
 - 2. CBNE RLE
 - 3. International 2 year associate nursing schools
 - 4. HIPDB
- V. Board Executive Session:
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

/s/ Aurelia G. Long, NP
Chairperson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. NMHC has made amendments to the previous QAP's selection criteria and fees.

NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on February 28, 2013, 10:00 a.m. at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan. Copies of the draft 2013 and 2014 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) are also available at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan and on our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Interested persons wishing to express their views on the QAP may do so either by attending the public hearing or by submitting comments to NMHC by 4:30 p.m. on February 28, 2013.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Kaipat at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
EY Corporation dba: Tropical Ice

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Tolkach Egeni is proposing to operate a synthetic skating rink on public land lot #054 H 01. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and will be located next to the basketball court along Beach Road, Susupe, across from the House of Justice and north of Saipan World Resort. This area is zoned as Public Resource.

Date: February 19, 2013, Tuesday
Time: 5:30 pm
**Place: Multi Purpose Center, Beach Road
Susupe, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, February 14, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

9th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival features ferry, fun run, bike race

The 9th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 16-17, 2013, is heating up with the addition of ferry service, a bike fun ride, and a fun run for participants.

The *Super Emerald* will provide transportation for individuals bringing a bicycle and other interested individuals. The cost is \$35 round-trip, while children age 5 and under are free.

The ferry service will depart Saipan on Feb. 15 at 5:30pm and Feb. 17 at 10am and will return from Tinian on Feb. 16 at

7pm and Feb. 18 at 5pm.

To purchase a ferry ticket, contact Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Skye Seo at hjseo@mymarianas.com or 664-3215. A limited number of seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The trip time is estimated at less than two hours, and the vessel departs from Port of Saipan.

"We're very pleased to be partnering with the Tinian Mayor's Office in making Tinian accessible to bikers again this year

by offering ferry transportation," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival is the perfect opportunity to enjoy some low-key island partying at the festival grounds while exploring the many natural and historic wonders of Tinian."

A free 5K Fun Run will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 7am with registration beginning at 6:15am. A free bike fun ride will be held the following day on Feb. 17 at 6:30am,

with registration beginning at 5:45am. The bike ride will be not more than 30K.

"The Tinian Mayor's Office has worked diligently to prepare another great course for bikers at this year's festival, and the people of Tinian are looking forward to welcome all of this weekend's visitors," said Don Farrell of the Tinian Mayor's Office.

The event will be held at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose. Available hotels on island include Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorilyn's, and Street Motel.

Some hotels offer airport shuttle as well. Air service is provided by Freedom Air and Star Marianas.

The celebration honors *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island. The event is also co-sponsored Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Activities will again include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment, including cultural dances and Hapi the Clown.

Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni*

sali eating competition, itself. Festival times will be from 1pm to 10pm on Feb. 16 and from 10am to 10pm on Feb. 17.

The historical treasures of Tinian include ancient Chamorro limestone pillars called Taga or latte stones (within walking distance of the festival), to relics from the Japanese era of administration of the islands, to WWII ruins.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at (670) 433-9365 or e-mail at vb0rja@mymarianas.com. (MVA)



The eight confirmed candidates who will vie for the Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* title on Feb. 17. From left to right, Renita Shanel Fleming, Nelly Rose Saturno, Gilda Maria Ogarro, Jasmine Guanzon, Carla Camille Flores, Roshiel Pascubillo, Stevie Jocelyn Jeter, and Melody Johnson.

Eight women to vie for tiara in Valentine beauty pageant

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight young ladies are confirmed to join the Ms. *Pusong Pinoy*, the beauty pageant that will highlight the annual Valentine event of the United Filipino Organization.

Renita Shanel Fleming, Carla Camille Flores, Jasmine Guanzon, Stevie Jocelyn Jeter, Melody Johnson, Gilda Maria Ogarro, Roshiel Pascubillo, and Nelly Rose Saturno will vie for the tiara, a gift pack, and \$300 cash prize on Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Garapan Fishing Base. The festival itself will run from 7am to 10pm.

Besides the grand prize, the first runner-up will get \$200 while the second runner-up will get \$100, with both receiving gift packages.

The panel of judges will also determine the winners for special prizes: Best in Island Wear, Best in Talent, Best in Long Gown, Best in National Costume, and Ms. Photogenic.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said they still welcome other interested young ladies 14 to 20 years old to sign up for the contest, as well as companies or individuals who want to donate prizes and have the chance to present their contribution at the event.

For information, call or text

treasurer Lyn Deazeta at 989-3845, assistant treasurer Bok Enano at 287-9756, and choreographers Joel Vallega and Ernie Molina at 898-1721.

No consular services

Adaza said the Philippine Consulate General in Guam will not be able to conduct mobile consular services during the *Pusong Pinoy* festivities due to a machine breakdown.

"According to Consul General Mangibin, they will advise UFO for the schedule of consular services as soon as they have the necessary equipment," she said.

All inquiries may be directed to the consulate at 682-2222; look for Francisco Magno.

Meanwhile, the Valentine event will also feature a free medical mission from 7am to 11am to be led by a UFO affiliate, the Triskelion Group.

Members will conduct blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, thanks to medical supplies donated by Brabu Pharmacy Wellness Center and PHI Pharmacy.

Additionally, Hardt Eye Clinic will conduct free vision screening and Public Health will administer free flu shots.

Adaza encourages the public to take advantage of these free medical services.

The community will also

enjoy other event highlights, which include the *Panlasang Pinoy* cooking competition, duet singing and group and individual dance contests.

Pusong Pinoy is sponsored by Docomo Pacific and other donors, namely TSL Foundation, Kristo Rai Parish, Traders Insurance Co., HBR International, Armatech, Peter Crisostomo, June & Ladyvir Canape, Sylvia Soriano, Tinian Dynasty, Pacific Islands Club, Mary Ann Cabael of Natasha, Hyatt Regency, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Brabu Pharmacy, PHI Pharmacy, Hardt Eye Clinic, Sun Palace, Jet Holdings, McDonald's, National Office Supply, and Dollar Days Wholesale.

"We are still looking for generous individuals who wish to donate monetary in helping us out for prizes in the various contests. Any amount will go a long way and all donors will be acknowledged during the event," said Adaza.

For more information, contact Marlon Regaton at 789-4600 for the cooking contest; Olive Yana at 989-9823 for singing and dance contests; Lyn Deazeta at 989-3845, Bok Enano at 287-9756, Joel Vallega, or Ernie Molina at 898-1721 for Ms. *Pusong Pinoy*; Adaza at 483-5237 or Mario Mayuga at 285-1021 for donations.

NMHC recognizes retired HUD director Flores

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board of directors unanimously adopted Thursday a resolution recognizing a former director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for his untiring support and "outstanding contributions."

Resolution No. 81 extends NMHC's appreciation to Michael S. Flores of the Honolulu Office of Public Housing, which oversees public housing agencies in Hawaii, CNMI, and Guam.

Flores, who began his career with HUD in July 1971, retired on Dec. 31, 2012, after

more than 41 years of service with the agency.

Since his appointment to the director position, Flores has followed through with his commitment to public housing agencies in the Marianas, paying annual visits to NMHC and the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority as part of efforts to deliver HUD programs in the island jurisdictions.

Flores was instrumental in ensuring that NMHC utilized some of the disaster vouchers issued from Typhoon Pongsana to families affected by the eruption of Anatahan.

He was also instrumental in the conversion of 148 disaster

vouchers, issued to the Commonwealth owing to typhoons Chaba and Tingting, into regular vouchers, increasing the islands' baseline voucher count from 215 to 363.

Kimo Rosario, Program and Housing Division manager of NMHC, said he was able to work closely with Flores when he first worked for the agency from 2007 to 2009.

Rosario said NMHC extends its best wishes to Flores and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

"Without question, his leadership is definitely missed and felt by NMHC," Rosario told *Saipan Tribune*.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Tueten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD13-RFP-001

PEST CONTROL SERVICES
FOR THE TRANSFER STATION AND MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY (MSWF), SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Pest Control Services for the Transfer Station and Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF) on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **February 12, 2013** at the DPW, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division Office. **A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., local time on March 01, 2013** at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station Conference Room. **Questions regarding this RFP** must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Alex S. Chong**, Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Pagu Avenue, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than **4:30 p.m., local time, March 06, 2013**.

EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with NMIC § 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Rules and Regulations as revised. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Technical Requirements:

1. Qualifications of the Pest Control Firm:	45%
2. Past experience or equivalent on similar projects:	45%
3. Current Workload of the Pest Control firm and ability to commit to the Scope of Work:	10%

Cost:

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with the overall merit of the proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination to conformance with the Procurement & Supply Regulations NMIC 70-30.3-245 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Proposers must submit an original and four (4) copies of signed, sealed proposals marked **DPW/SWMD-12-RFP-001 "Pest Control Services - Transfer Station and Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF)"** to the office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, March 15, 2013**. Proposals submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 15, 2013** and must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive by **March 27, 2013**. Proposers outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement and Supply in writing, of their intent to submit in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual proposal documents. This notice of intent to submit may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to 670-664-1515 or email to procurement@pticom.com but must be received no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, March 15, 2013**.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director of Procurement & Supply

Tie-up aims to remove stored oil products

APRA HARBOR, Guam—A Unified Command has been established between Guam Shipyard, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and Naval Base Guam to assist the privately-owned shipyard with the safe removal of several thousand gallons of stored petroleum products.

Since Coast Guard facility inspectors began their assessment of Guam Shipyard last week, an estimated 250,000 gallons of oil has been identified that must be

removed from the facility. The oil products were found in storage tanks located on a fuel barge, oil barge and dry dock, which are owned by the Guam Shipyard.

"The Coast Guard is charged by Congress with three broad roles: maritime security, maritime safety and maritime stewardship. As stewards of Guam's sensitive and vital marine resources, identifying and appropriately addressing

a pollution threat before it can impact the environment is critical," said Capt. Casey White, Coast Guard Sector Guam commander. "In coordination with Guam Shipyard and our local partners, we are taking every step necessary to work toward a permanent solution to remove the oil."

All three storage areas identified to date are either on or near the water. It is important to note, no reports of oil products enter-

ing the waterways around the Guam Shipyard has been received but preventive measures have been taken to contain a spill should one occur. No violations have been issued to the Guam Shipyard at this time. The shipyard has deployed oil boom around the floating barge and has instituted a roving watch until a removal plan is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard to remove all identified oil products. (USCG)

Businessman sponsors grand prize for essay contest on Philippine Sea

Guam-based Filipino-American businessman Emelio Uy, vice president of National Office Supply, has donated \$1,250 (Php 50,000) as the college category first prize for the historical essay contest on the West Philippine Sea.

National Office Supply has stores on Saipan in the CNMI and Guam.

In a text message to Uy by Loida Nicolas Lewis, national chairperson of the USP4GG, states: "Dear Mr. Uy, thank you very much for your generous donation on the essay contest chaired by Dr. Celia Lamkin. Your grant is already bearing fruit because the response from

students is heartwarming. God bless you and your loved ones."

A retired educator in the CNMI who wants to be anonymous is the sponsor for the college category third prize of \$300 (Php 12,000).

Other donors and advertisers in the CNMI and Guam are Ronald P. Lamkin, Dr. Celia B. Lamkin, Cargo Express (Saipan) Inc., Nhitz Manalo, Barny's Pizza, Island Florals, Marianas Bible Fellowship Center, Inc., Agape Inter-



national Mission School, Fanny dela Rosa, YCO Corp., Canton Restaurant, Venus Beauty Shop, Blue Magic Flower Shop (Guam), Laguna Association of Guam, Manglona

Realty, UP Alumni Association of Guam, and the Filipino Community of Guam. Off-island donors and advertisers include The Lewis College Foundation (Philippines), Nimfa Gomez (USA), National Federation of Filipino Americans USA, Yoly Tubalinal (Chicago), and Geraldine

Nieva (Australia).

"I would like to thank the donors and advertisers who have helped and supported this great cause. However, we still need assistance for the prizes and certificates of the winners of the essay contest. We are kindly asking the community to support this great endeavor," said Lamkin, chairperson of the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter.

US Pinoys for Good Governance, headed by national chairwoman Loida Nicolas Lewis, president Rodel Rodis, and legal counsel/spokesman Ted Lagutan, is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization based in New York.

For more information, call Lamkin at 288-1714 or email her at celia.lamkin@yahoo.com. (PR)

Foreign persons must report US agricultural land holdings

HONOLULU, Hawaii—U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency state executive director Diane Ley reminds foreign persons with an interest in agricultural lands in the United States that they are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

"Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, including leaseholds of 10 years or more, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction," said Ley.

Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

"Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural

land," said Ley.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

Disclosure reports are also required when there are changes in land use. For example, reports are required when land use changes from nonagricultural to agricultural or from agricultural to nonagricultural. Foreign investors must also file a report when there is a change in the status of ownership such as the owner changes from foreign to non-foreign, from non-foreign to foreign or from foreign to foreign.

Data gained from these disclosures is used to prepare an annual report to the President and Congress concerning the effect of such holdings upon family farms and rural communities in the United States.

For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the local County FSA office or call 808-441-2704 or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>. (USDA)



HYDROPONIC FARMING

Agricultural consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera shows the starter plug where he placed the germinated seedling of Buttercup lettuce, the crop grown in Cabrera's own hydroponic farm on Navy Hill.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 15th birthday Maria Francine E. Fleming! Wishing you an awesome day! May God continue to protect and guide you. Many blessings to you always. We love you! Greetings coming out from Dad, Mom, Mia, and Melia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 12, 2004

Resolution mulled to back 702 accord

Senate Floor Leader Paul A. Manglona yesterday recommended that the upper chamber adopt a resolution endorsing the new Covenant Section 702 agreement inked by Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior David B. Cohen this week. The new agreement would provide up to \$13 million a year for the next six years in financial assistance to the CNMI. The Rota senator, who lauded the efforts of Benavente, the chief negotiator in the financial assistance talks under Section 702 of the US-CNMI Covenant, said the Senate's support on this issue may help in the proposal's swift passage in the U.S. Congress.

Quorum lack delays land compensation

Although land compensation money is available, actual payment has not been done due to the failure of the Marianas Public Lands Authority Board of Directors to convene and approve such payments. MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider claimed yesterday that the primary reason of the delay is the board's lack of quorum. He earlier said that the lack of quorum was only part of the reason why the agency could not issue the settlement checks to landowners. He admitted yesterday that MPLA has been getting calls from landowners inquiring what had happened to their checks. The MPLA had already received the first drawdown-about \$5 million-from the \$40-million land compensation bond money. It got the money on the first week of this month.

Feb. 12, 2005

CUC's Torres: Where are your priorities?

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. official questioned yesterday a proposal to reprogram \$700,000 from the Kagman sewer project appropriations to road paving projects. A member of the House of Representatives has moved to modify House Bill 14-286, which seeks to reprogram \$3.3 million from the Kagman wastewater treatment plant project to the construction of the Atingan ocean outfall and upgrade of the Atingan sewer treatment plant. Under the proposed change, the bill would allocate only \$1.6 million to the Atingan project and distribute the remaining \$1.7 million among various sewer projects and road paving projects in Precinct I.

Micronesia Group in town for PSS seminar

Guam-based Micronesia Group Inc. assisted the Public School System Thursday during the start of its two-day professional development program held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. "Let us be each other's partners in the workplace and share convictions with respect as a team and I am sharing my team with you today," said Micronesia Group chief executive officer Jesse Sablan. Sablan led the presentation attended by Kagman High School teachers and staff. He said his group presented a more dynamic professional development seminar focusing on accreditation and professionalism of KHS employees.

Feb. 12, 2006

Labor sanctions company for delay in filing

The Department of Labor has imposed a \$265 sanction on a company for negligence that caused the late filing of a renewal application for one of its employees. Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody warned that if Pacific Utility & Communications Inc. fails to pay the sanction, further sanctions may be imposed on the company. Cody reversed the Labor director's decision to deny PUC's application to renew the employment of Basilio L. Siason. "I believe the regulatory late fee is the most appropriate standard to apply in this case and I find that the figure proposed by the Department (\$50 per each day of tardiness after 30 days) would have been unduly harsh under the circumstances," the hearing officer said.

Fund seeks assurance on govt contributions

NMI Retirement Fund officials were set to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial late Friday afternoon to obtain assurances that the government would timely and accurately pay its retirement contributions. "The board wants to make sure that every 15 days, we get the government's share," said Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes. The financial crisis gripping the government has resulted in late payments of its employer contribution to the Fund over the years, the arrears of which now totals over \$85 million. As of early January, the Fund said the government had been four pay periods behind in employer contributions, amounting to some \$3 million.

Island Snapshots



SPECIAL SENATE PANEL

Senate Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), right, convenes on Friday afternoon a special Senate committee tasked with formulating rules that will govern a trial at the Senate in connection with a House resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



HISTORIC REPORT

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), center, signs off on a House Special Investigating Committee on Impeachment report recommending to the full House to pass a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, while fellow panel members Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), left, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), right, look on Thursday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



PORT CALL

The crew of the guided-missile destroyer USS *Higgins* stand at attention as the vessel arrives in Palau on Feb. 4 for a port visit. During the ship's visit, Higgins sailors did several community relations projects, including repairing two high schools damaged by Super Typhoon Bopha. The storm struck Palau last Dec. 2.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



QC APPLICANT

Saipan Surfrider, LLC's Bob Jones gestures as he stresses a point regarding the company's qualifying certificate application during the Commonwealth Development Authority board meeting on Feb. 6.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



HOLIDAY PERFORMERS

Members of Hopwood Junior High School's Refaluwasch Culture Club are joined by school principal Jonas Barcenas, left, during a photo shoot with Santa Claus at the DFS Galleria in Garapan in December. The group performed for tourists and shoppers during the holiday season.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BOARD MEETING

From right to left, Commonwealth Development Authority re-elected board chair Pedro I. Itibus, legal counsel Vicente T. Salas, and executive director Manuel A. Sablan listen to a presenter during a meeting last Feb. 6.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



UP FOR DEPLOYMENT

U.S. Army 1LT Joey Togawa holds his 10-month-old daughter Gabriella during a sendoff ceremony for him and 15 other CNMI soldiers who will be deployed to Afghanistan in a few weeks.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 30

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Postal Service SOS

For years, U.S. Postal Service officials have threatened to cut Saturday mail delivery if only Congress would let them. But Congress refused.

On Wednesday, USPS leaders stopped waiting for the feckless lawmakers—"We want you postal officials to balance your budget but don't reduce service"—to act. The USPS announced a bold move to cut mail delivery, but maintain package delivery, on Saturdays. That will begin in August and save the capsizing USPS about \$2 billion a year. USPS officials believe they have the authority to do this ... unless Congress intervenes.

Memo to Congress: Don't.

This is a smart, long overdue move by the Postal Service. Congress should build on this by dropping outdated laws and rules that bind the USPS' ability to streamline its operations, properly price its services, and fully compete in a less regulated marketplace.

Cutting Saturday service only flicks at the Postal Service's deeper financial problems. Despite massive consolidations in facilities and cutbacks in its bloated workforce, the USPS lost nearly \$16 billion last year. That's after the service defaulted last year on \$11.1 billion in payments to cover future retiree health care costs.

The red ink will keep gushing out of postage meters unless postal officials can swiftly transform their business to compete in the 21st century. Congress, are you listening?

USPS needs to be able to raise rates on money-losing mail categories fast enough and high enough to make money.

This overhaul can't be incremental. For instance: The Postal Service recently raised the price of a first-class stamp by a mere penny. U.S. stamp prices remain among the lowest in the developed world, according to a 2012 report by the nation's largest mail-carriers union. A 2006 federal law limits rate increases to the pace of inflation. Lawmakers, here's a start at helping the USPS survive: Repeal that law.

Lawmakers also need to end the Postal Service's monopoly on delivering everything that lands in your mailbox. Invite more private competition, as some European countries have done. How about letting companies bid for the right to deliver first-class mail, nationally or regionally? Or maybe on Saturday only?

Let's see what innovations, including innovations at the USPS, spring from opening the market to competition.

Yes, some Americans will miss their Saturday mail. But many will shrug because most of their mail already comes electronically. We're guessing they won't mind waiting a while longer for their daily dose of bills.

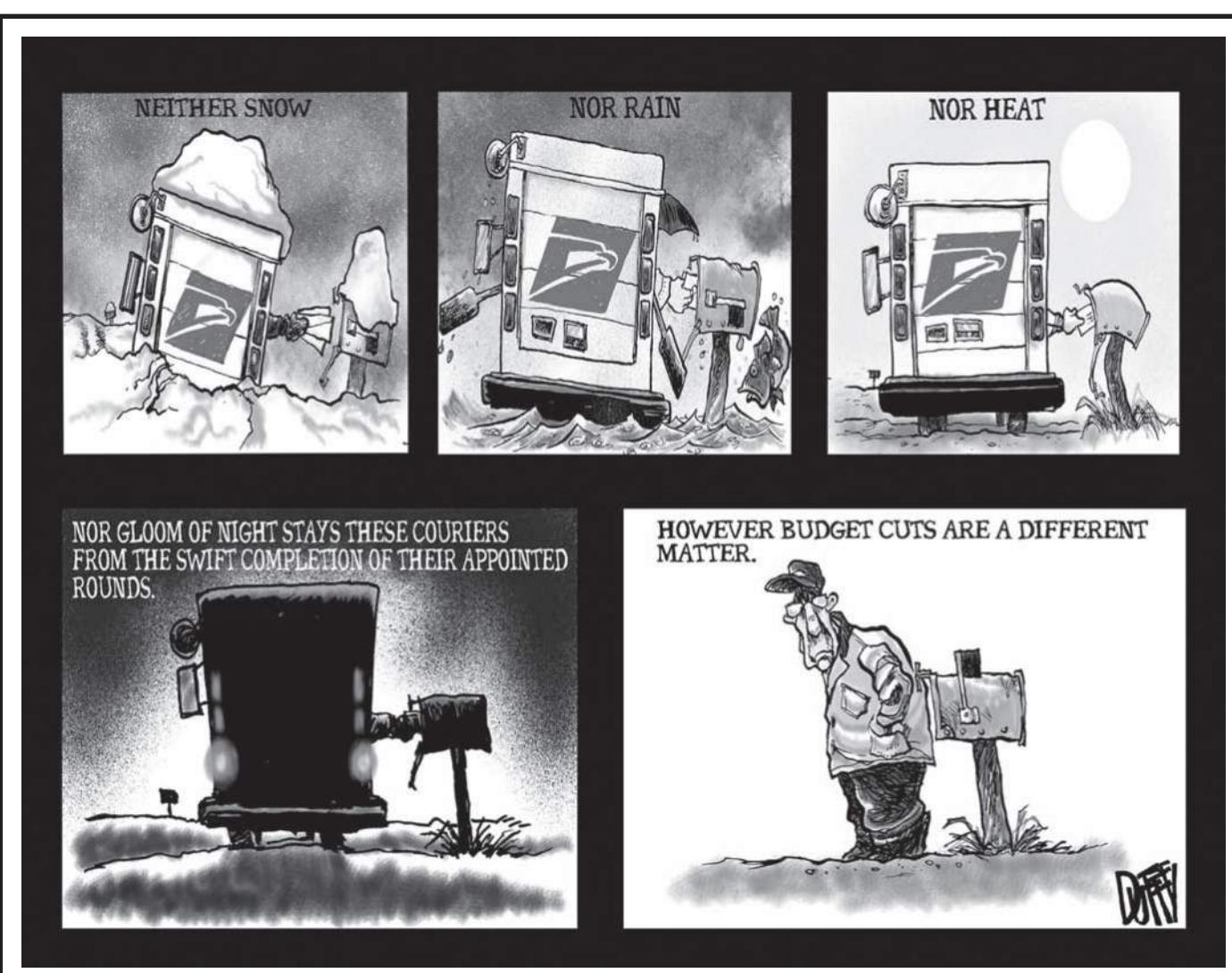
Jeanette Dwyer, president of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, said the end of Saturday delivery is "yet another death knell" for the USPS' quality service. She called it "completely unacceptable."

No, what is unacceptable is Congress allowing the USPS to hemorrhage to death.

Unleash the Postal Service to innovate and compete. No holds barred. Let's find out if the Postal Service or other carriers can serve customers better.

Otherwise, this won't be the last SOS from the USPS.

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Fertility and immigration

In Washington, politicians are trying to reform America's immigration system, again. Both President Obama and Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., are proposing "paths to citizenship" for an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants. Other proposals abound, including finishing the border fence, creating a better E-Verify system for employers and passing the last Congress' Dream Act.

All of these ideas, however, fundamentally misunderstand immigration in America: Future immigration is probably going to be governed not by U.S. domestic policy choices but by global demographics.

For the last 30 years, a massive number of immigrants has poured into the United States from south of the border. Today there are 38 million people living in the United States who were born somewhere else. That's an average of more than 1 million immigrants a year for three decades, a sustained influx unlike any we've seen before in U.S. history. And regardless of what policies Washington decides on, that supply is likely to dry up soon.

Like much else in the world, immigration is influenced by the fertility rate: that is, the number of children the average woman has during her lifetime. If the total fertility rate of a country is above 2.1—what demographers called the replacement level—then that country's population grows. If the rate is below 2.1, then eventually its population contracts.

When it comes to immigration, demographers have a general rule of thumb: Countries with fertility rates below the replacement level tend to attract immigrants, not send them. And so, when a country's fertility rate collapses, it often ceases to be a source of immigration.

Consider Puerto Rico. In the 1920s, Puerto Ricans began to trickle into the United States. Their numbers accumulated slowly, and by 1930, there were 50,000 Puerto Ricans living in the United States (nearly all in New York City). Over time, however, the community reached a critical mass, and by the mid-1940s, 30,000 Puerto Ricans were arriving every year. The Puerto Rican wave continued, and grew. In 1955, 80,000 Puerto Ricans came to the United States.

But from 1955 to 2010, the number plummeted. Even though the population of Puerto Rico had nearly doubled in that time, the total number of Puerto Ricans moving to the United States in 2010 was only 4,283.

Why? After all, migrating to the United States from Puerto Rico had become easier, not harder. And while economic conditions in Puerto Rico brightened somewhat, the opportunities and standard of living in the United States are still superior.

What happened is that Puerto Rico's fertility rate imploded. In 1955, Puerto Rico's total fertility rate was 4.97, well above replacement. By 2012, it had fallen to 1.64—even further below the replacement line than the United States'.

By JONATHAN V. LAST

Los Angeles Times



Jonathan V. Last is a senior writer at the Weekly Standard and the author of *What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster*. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

And what has happened in Puerto Rico is happening all across Latin America, where fertility rates have been dropping on an express elevator for 20 years.

Many Latin American countries have already fallen below the replacement level. It's not a coincidence that sub-replacement countries—such as Uruguay, Chile, Brazil and Costa Rica—send the U.S. barely any immigrants at all. The vast majority of our immigrants come from above-replacement countries, such as Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico.

But even though they're still above-replacement, those countries are witnessing epic fertility declines too.

Consider Mexico, which over the last 30 years has sent roughly two-thirds of all the immigrants—legal and illegal—who came to the United States. In 1970, the Mexican fertility rate was 6.72. Today, it's hovering at the 2.1 mark—a drop of nearly 70 percent in just two generations. And it's still falling.

The result is that from 2005 to 2010, the U.S. received a net of zero immigrants from Mexico.

Certainly some of that change can be attributed to the Great Recession, particularly the slowdown in construction and the housing industry. But we may also be witnessing the beginning of a structural change in our immigration relationship, as Mexico's demographic profile comes to resemble Puerto Rico's.

It's important to understand that Mexico's experience is not unique but rather is part of a global phenomenon. Today, 97 percent of the world's population lives in countries where the fertility rate is falling. And once a country's fertility rate starts dropping, it nearly always settles far below the replacement level. And because of this, most demographic models project that the world's population will peak sometime before the end of this century, and then begin contracting—for the first time since the Black Death ravaged Europe.

The U.S. immigration debate is largely driven by politics. And the truth is that both liberals and conservatives have valid concerns about immigration's effect. But this political debate is shortsighted, and whatever policy choices we make will probably only matter in the near term. In the end, demography always wins.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The many faces of Richard III

By WENDY ORENT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Who was Richard III? We've got an idea of what he looked like thanks to a new 3-D reconstruction of his head, made after the discovery of his skull, along with the rest of his skeleton, under a parking lot in Leicester, England.

But what kind of person he was remains in dispute. Was the king, who died at 32 in the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, an emerging democrat and saintly protector? Or was he the "poisonous hunch-backed toad" of Shakespeare's "Richard III," an ogre who mur-

Saluting Rosa Parks on her birth centennial

By BRIAN GILMORE
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

This week marks the 100th birthday of civil rights legend Rosa Parks. To celebrate the date, the U.S. Postal Service has issued a Rosa Parks stamp. It is a worthy honor for Mrs. Parks and a fitting tribute to one of the nation's greatest citizens.

In December 1955, Parks, who was born in Tuskegee, Ala., was living in Montgomery. She was working as a seamstress at a department store in a city that people called "The Cradle of the Confederacy." Montgomery was racially segregated to the core. On the city bus system, whites sat in the front of the bus; blacks sat in the back. If there were no seats for whites, blacks had to give up their seats and stand. It was a source of daily humiliation for the black citizens of Montgomery.

Parks was a passenger on a crowded Cleveland Avenue bus on Dec. 1, 1955, when she refused an order by a white bus driver to give her seat up to a white passenger who had entered the crowded bus. After being threatened with arrest, Parks refused again and was arrested. She was jailed and fined for violating Montgomery's segregation laws.

Her act of defiance set off the Montgomery bus boycott in December 1955. Blacks in Montgomery formed the Montgomery Improvement Association and decided once and for all that they would no longer ride the buses in Montgomery as long as they were racially segregated. Blacks either walked or were given rides by members of local civic groups.

The boycott stunned the whites of Montgomery and their city officials. The nearly 13-month boycott would eventually lead to desegregation of the city's public transit system, a major victory at that time. More important, the modern civil rights movement began that day, and a young minister named Martin Luther King Jr. was propelled into the spotlight.

Rosa Parks was more than some historical accident. In fact, she prepared for her moment in history for years. Parks was serving as volunteer field secretary for the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP in 1955. She also served on the Women's Political Council in the city, an organization that had been out front seeking equal rights for blacks. In addition, Parks had attended the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tenn., where she trained under civil rights activist Septima Clark. Rosa Parks' famous act of protest did not come without personal sacrifice. She was declared a pariah in the city, lost her job as a seamstress, and received death threats. She eventually moved to Detroit, where she lived until her death on Oct. 24, 2005, at age 92.

Upon her death, Parks' coffin was placed in the U.S. Capitol rotunda for two days. More than 30,000 people paid their respects. National leaders spoke at her funeral, including then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton. Now called "the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Rosa Parks resisted such labels. She always said she was just trying to do what was right. She also said her act never had anything to do with being physically tired.

"The only tired I was," Parks remarked years later, was "tired of giving in." She was an extraordinary human being, and we're all in her debt.

Brian Gilmore is a writer for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

dered his brother's sons and stole the crown, making him the most notorious usurper in English history?

The truth is, we know little about him, which leaves plenty of room for projecting ideas and emotions. Philippa Langley, a screenwriter and the secretary of the Scottish branch of the Richard III Society, who agitated for the excavation of the Leicester parking lot, is firmly in the defend-Richard camp. At the unveiling of the model of the king's head, she insisted to an interviewer: "It doesn't look like the face of a tyrant. I'm sorry but it doesn't. He's very handsome."

Then there's Ishaan Tharoor at Time magazine, who calls Richard "one of history's losers."

Contemporaneous accounts aren't of much help in settling the dispute, as nearly all were propaganda. Chronicler John Rous wrote this about Richard during his lifetime: "The most mighty Prince Richard ... all avarice set aside ruled his subjects in his realm full commendably."

But by the time Rous wrote his "History of the Kings of England," years after Richard's death, the historian's views had changed. He described Richard as a monster, born with teeth and hair to his shoulders, who stayed two years in his mother's womb.

What can we say for certain about Richard III? The last king from the House of York was brave, a capable soldier despite his scoliosis. He was the last English king to lead his men in battle, wearing his crown, though he knew he would be a target. He married a childhood friend and seems to have been faithful to her. We know that he never tried to make his illegitimate son John—born before his marriage—heir to the throne after his legitimate son died. We also know that he named his nephew Edward Warwick his heir instead—the same Edward Warwick whom Henry VII later murdered. Richard was deeply religious and carried his book of hours into battle with him.

Some of Richard's supporters claim that he invented bail. This isn't true, though his Parliament, to prevent sheriffs from rushing men into prison and extorting money for their release, extended the right to grant bail to justices of the peace. Under Richard, be-nevolences—the extortion by the crown of money from the nobility—were outlawed, and laws were printed in English so that more people could understand them. These things may not be many, but they tell us something.

Peekaboo—let the good times in

By GINA BARRECA
THE HARTFORD COURANT

We all enter this world crying. Laughter is something we have to learn.

We learn to laugh through contact with somebody else who's doing it, which, unless you're a twin, is yet another difference from the whole "being born" business.

And although it is possible to laugh alone, like so many other things, it's a lot more fun to do it with others. I'm thinking, of course, of miniature golf.

My journalist friend Gene Weingarten says, the very moment we learn to laugh depends on having somebody else there. He believes it all comes down to peekaboo. (Yes, like so many other things.)

Weingarten argues that "peekaboo tickles before tickling tickles" and the experience of humor goes back to the moment when a baby watches somebody cover her face with her hands and then yell "peekaboo!" in glee as she removes them. That irrepressible combination of surprise-plus-continuity is at the heart of it, says Weingarten of *The Washington Post* (I'm referring to peekaboo, not to the paper, you understand).

We adore being a little bit shocked but we also immediately want to see that our shock is just silly. We want to be reminded, by the release of laughter, that what we love has not actually disappeared.

Psychologists refer to this as "object permanence." Perhaps you've referred it to it in less clinical terms if, as I have, you have begun what turned into a marathon session of peekaboo with a tyke who has been affected by too much excitement, sugar or double-espresso shots. Kids will play peekaboo until the cows come home, or until it simply smells as if they did.

Our appetite for that kind of fun dwindles as we grow up. It is replaced by the mind-numbing drudgery of life. After all, there's kindergarten with its endless crayoning, crayoning and crayoning. And school? With the horror of, well, learning? And sitting? And snacking before learning again? No wonder we lose our mirth.

A sense of humor is not hardwired into our systems once we get past the peekaboo stage; if you've ever commuted to work by bus

We don't know for certain what happened to his nephews, who were in line for the throne ahead of him. He may have had them executed at the Tower of London. But there's no definitive proof, and his successor Henry VII never directly accused him of their murder.

Still, Richard certainly had blood on his hands. Initially, he executed five men he believed to have plotted against him: William Hastings, Anthony Rivers, Thomas Vaughan, Richard Haute and the younger son of Edward IV's wife, Richard Grey. According to 19th-century historian Clements R. Markham, 11 other rebels were tried and executed after a failed rebellion in 1483. Two others were executed for treason the following year. That's a grand total of at least 18.

Richard also spared many people, though, including Bishop Stanley Morton, who betrayed him in two conspiracies, and Hastings' mistress, Jane Shore, a possible co-conspirator with Hastings.

Richard did not make war against bishops and women. But the Tudors who succeeded him did. Henry VII and his son, Henry VIII, killed almost all the remaining Yorkists, including 70-year-old Countess Margaret Pole, who forced the executioner to pursue her around the chopping block as she refused to "give them her head."

Whatever Richard III was, he was not a Tudor, and any sins at his door seem wan by comparison.

Before the Battle of Bosworth Field, according to an account by Morris McGhee, former chair of the American branch of the Richard III Society, Richard marched his men up the roads "like a decent Englishman," while Henry Tudor ordered his men through the fields of ripening wheat, destroying the crop and causing a famine.

Perhaps, knowing any summation must be incomplete, we can leave the final word to Bishop Thomas Langton, who wrote in a private letter about Richard III in August 1483:

"He contents the people where he goes best that ever did prince; for many a poor man that hath suffered wrong many days have been relieved and helped by him. ... God has sent him to us for the weal of us all."

Wendy Orent is a Richard III enthusiast and the author of *Plague: The Mysterious Past and Terrifying Future of the World's Most Dangerous Disease*. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Peekaboo—let the good times in

you know this for a fact. But a sense of humor can be developed as can another talent or skill set. Like carrying a tune or picking up the check, however, some people never master the art.

Some folks don't realize that there is no such thing as an ordinary life.

They believe themselves to have cornered the market on misery, frustration and disappointment. They tell you about their unhappy childhoods and dysfunctional families as if they were the only ones ever to have been ritually humiliated, even before "America's Funniest Home Videos" went global. They complain about their parents, kids, jobs or neighbors to the point where their tales of woe are, like certain exotic foods, hard to swallow.

But bad times, we must remember, are inevitable: We all face death, we all face suffering, we all face the prospect of another season of "Dance Moms." You have two alternatives: You can crack up or you can crack a smile.

Unlike bad times, however, good times aren't bullies who break down the doors and barge in. Joy and pleasure are, instead, excellent guests and, as such, they wait for an invitation. You have to open the door to life's best moments; you have to invite them in and welcome them when they arrive.

To be honest, I've always found that it's best to make a big fuss when good times appear at the threshold. You want them to feel absolutely at home. You wouldn't want them to feel that, while you're happy enough to see them, you were expecting a little more razzle-dazzle. They might not come again. They depend on genuine hospitality. You wouldn't want them to think they'd arrived too late, or were deemed insignificant, or were weighed and found wanting.

Survival, or making survival worth the bother, depends on seeking joy, uncovering and discovering humor, and, in one of life's great ironies, carefully nurturing a sense of the absurd.

Remembering to laugh is as essential as learning how to peekaboo in the first place. It can't make the darkness go away, but it does admit the light.

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▾ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▾ 78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 81
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 81
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▾ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 40 ▾ 19
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▾ 60
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▾ 66
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 37 ▾ 31
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 61 ▾ 40
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▾ 77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 78 ▾ 57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▾ 66
New York	Rain	▲ 46 ▾ 34
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 47 ▾ 39
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 37 ▾ 26
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 48 ▾ 29
Rome	Rain	▲ 49 ▾ 38
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▾ 42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 61 ▾ 42
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 30 ▾ 20
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▾ 39
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 62 ▾ 39

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:43 AM	6:20 PM	Today	7:46 AM	8:07 PM
Wednesday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM	Wednesday	8:29 AM	9:00 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM	Thursday	9:10 AM	9:52 PM
Friday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM	Friday	9:52 AM	10:43 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM	Saturday	10:35 AM	11:34 PM

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ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

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POLICY

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119

4:00am

6:40am

Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608

3:10am

6:20am

4, 6, 7

OZ608

3:30am

6:40am

3

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606

2:10am

6:00am

1

OZ606

2:40am

6:30am

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

OZ119

4:00am

Business

Airports returning to normal after Northeast storm

NEW YORK (AP)—Airports in New York, Boston and Connecticut were ramping up service Sunday, as they worked to return to normal operations following a massive snowstorm that crippled parts of the East Coast and led to thousands of flight delays and cancellations.

Airlines said they were operating close-to-normal schedules on Sunday, a busy day for air travel.

Meanwhile, trains and public transportation networks were also struggling to get back to full operation in time for Monday morning's commute.

Boston's Logan Airport opened at 11 p.m. ET on Saturday, after closing in anticipation of the storm along with airports in New York City and Connecticut.

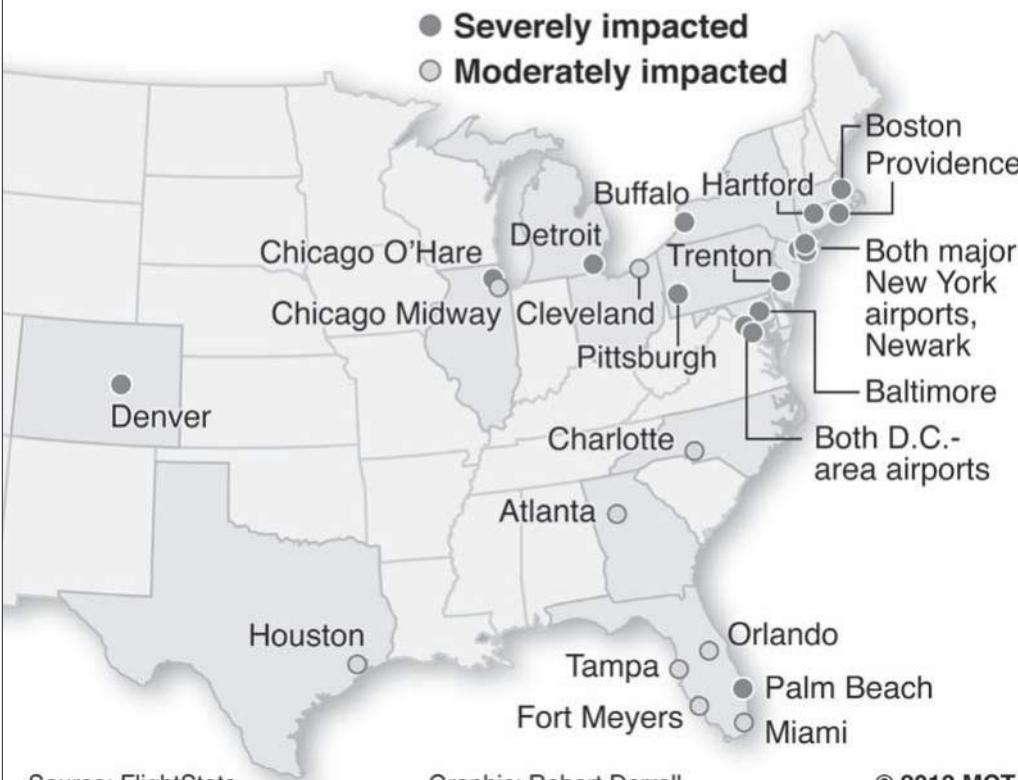
As of Sunday afternoon, Boston was still experiencing delayed and canceled flights and officials urged passengers to check with their airline before heading to the airport. Connecticut's Bradley International Airport opened early Sunday morning, also advising passengers to contact individual airlines about possible cancellations.

Flight-tracking website FlightAware.com said about 450 flights were canceled on Sunday, a busy travel day for airlines. Only 20 are expected for Monday.

In all roughly 5,700 flights have been canceled since Friday, when the airports shut down in anticipation of the storm. Friday saw the most cancellations, according to FlightAware, with Saturday a close second. Airlines waived ticket-change fees

Snowstorm hampers airports

The northeastern blizzard dubbed Nemo has forced cancellation of thousands of flights at airports in the East and has created rippling effects in Chicago and Denver.



for passengers in the affected areas.

Airlines try to get ahead of big storms by canceling flights in advance. They want to avoid having crews and planes stuck in one area of the country. They also face fines for leaving passengers stuck on a plane for more than three hours, under a rule that went into effect in 2010.

Delta Air Lines Inc. said that as of Sunday morning, its flights

were back to normal. In all, it canceled about 1,200 flights due to the storm.

United Airlines spokeswoman Megan McCarthy said the airline was operating at all airports Sunday, though it was experiencing some delays because of the weather. United is part of United Continental Holdings Inc.

American Airlines spokesman Kent Powell said that by Sunday afternoon the storm-re-

lated cancellations had become "almost a non-issue."

JetBlue Airways Corp. said flights are back to regular schedules in New York and will be in Boston by Monday.

Amtrak trains were running on a limited schedule between New York and Boston, after service between the two cities was canceled Saturday.

Regional lines were still working to restore service.

As of Sunday afternoon, Met-

FSM fiduciaries earn accredited investment fiduciary designation

BRIDGEVILLE, Pennsylvania—William N. Kostka, executive director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, has been awarded the Accredited Investment Fiduciary® (AIF®) designation from the Center for Fiduciary Studies™ (the Center), the standards-setting body for Fi3601.

The AIF designation signifies specialized knowledge of fiduciary responsibility and the ability to implement policies and procedures that meet a defined standard of care. The designation is the culmination of a rigorous training program, which

includes a comprehensive, closed-book final examination, and agreement to abide by the AIF® Code of Ethics.

On an ongoing basis, Designees are required to complete continuing education to maintain the AIF® Designation.

Kostka attended the second ever Asia based Fi360 training, which was sponsored by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS), and held at APAFS's 12th An-

nual Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila in November 2012. The training was attended by twenty five individuals from throughout Micronesia and the Philippines. Kostka becomes only the third FSM citizen to hold the AIF® designation.

Fi360 will be holding the next Accredited Investment Fiduciary® training immediately prior to the 13th Annual Pacific Region Invest-

Novo Nordisk says FDA rejects insulin drugs

NEW YORK (AP)—Novo Nordisk AS says the Food and Drug Administration rejected its applications for approval of once-per-day insulin drugs to treat diabetes. The Danish

ment Conference in Manila Philippines, being held on Nov. 15 and 16, 2013. Gerard Cruz, APAFS chairman says "we are

excited about once again hosting this prestigious, and badly needed, fiduciary training certification course once again. The response to the first course was truly overwhelming. Demand is already high for this year's training, and as we can only accommodate 25 participants, I would encourage interested individuals to email us immediately at executivedirector@apafs.org." (PR)

drugmaker says it received a "complete response letter" from the FDA regarding its applications for approval of Tresiba and Ryzodeg, or insulin degludec, on Friday. Such a letter indicates the agency determined the application cannot be approved in its current form. In November, panel of federal health advisers recommended that the govern-

ro-North Railroad service on the New Haven Line was operating between New York City and Stamford, Conn., but remained suspended between Stamford and New Haven, and on branch lines. Train crews were working to clear as much as 4 feet of snow off the tracks.

The Long Island Rail Road was back to "near-normal" weekend schedule on the western portion of most of its lines, New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority said. But train service in Long Island's Suffolk County, also hit with more than two feet of snow, was suspended.

France hunting fraudsters in horsemeat scandal

PARIS (AP)—Europe's horsemeat scandal is spreading and threatening cross-border tensions, as France says Romanian butchers and Dutch and Cypriot traders were part of a supply chain that resulted in horsemeat disguised as beef being sold in frozen lasagna around the continent.

No one has reported health risks from the mislabeled meat, but it has unsettled consumers across Europe.

Accusations are flying. In France, the foreign minister called it "disgusting," and consumer safety authorities increased inspections of the country's meat business, from slaughterhouses to supermarkets. Romania's president is scrambling to salvage his country's reputation. A Swedish manufacturer is suing a French supplier central to the affair.

While horsemeat is largely taboo in Britain and some other countries, in France it is sold in specialty butcher shops and prized by some connoisseurs. But French supermarkets announced Sunday that they've recalled a raft of pre-prepared meals, including lasagna, moussaka and cannelloni suspected of containing undeclared horsemeat. The French ministers for agriculture, the food industry and consumer protection are holding an emergency meeting Monday with meat producers.

While horsemeat is largely taboo in Britain and some other countries, in France it is sold in specialty butcher shops and prized by some connoisseurs. But French authorities are worried about producers misleading the public. Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius called Sunday night on BFM television for "tough punishments" for what he described as "abominable" fraud.

An affair that started earlier this year with worries about horsemeat in burgers in Ireland and Britain has spread into a Europe-wide scandal.

The EU commissioner for agriculture is meeting Monday with Romania's foreign minister about the latest horsemeat worries. Romanian President Traian Basescu said Sunday that his country could face potential export restrictions and lose credibility "for many years" if the Romanian butchers turn out to be the root of the problem.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Source: AMR, US Airways delay meeting on merger

DALLAS (AP)—The boards of American Airlines parent AMR Corp. and US Airways have pushed back meetings to consider final plans for their merger, Associated Press sources say. A source close to the matter said Sunday that the AMR board

wants to meet in person, and that the US Airways board would only meet after the AMR board approves a deal. The source requested anonymity because the talks are private. It is not clear when the two boards would finally meet. People familiar with the matter said negotiations are continuing, on issues that include AMR CEO Tom Horton's

exact title and role in the combined company.

Novo Nordisk says FDA rejects insulin drugs

NEW YORK (AP)—Novo Nordisk AS says the Food and Drug Administration rejected its applications for approval of once-per-day insulin drugs to treat diabetes. The Danish

drugmaker says it received a "complete response letter" from the FDA regarding its applications for approval of Tresiba and Ryzodeg, or insulin degludec, on Friday. Such a letter indicates the agency determined the application cannot be approved in its current form. In November, panel of federal health advisers recommended that the govern-

ment approve degludec. The FDA is not required to follow the group's advice, but it often does.

Dubai's A380 concourse in full operation

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Dubai's airport authorities say a purpose-build concourse for Airbus' A380 aircraft is fully open after weeks of

Most New York City subways and buses were operating on a regular schedule.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority said service on some subway and bus lines resumed at about 2 p.m., and planned to operate on regular schedules Monday. But the agency said commuters should expect "significant" delays.

Most commuter rail service around Boston should resume by Monday morning, the agency said on its website.

The blizzard also snarled drivers across the Northeast as snow cleanup continued Sunday.



Kostka

phased-in operations. The aircraft is a double-decker that seats 525 people and is so large some airports have to be adjusted to accommodate it. The 20-gate concourse, which hosted its inaugural flight on Jan. 2, is part of a wider \$7.8 billion expansion plan for Dubai's international airport, which seeks to become the world's busiest by 2015.

Nation

What heals traumatized kids? Answers are lacking

CHICAGO (AP)—Shootings and other traumatic events involving children are not rare events, but there's a startling lack of scientific evidence on the best ways to help young survivors and witnesses heal, a government-funded analysis found.

School-based counseling treatments showed the most promise, but there's no hard proof that anxiety drugs or other medication work and far more research is needed to provide solid answers, say the authors who reviewed 25 studies. Their report was sponsored by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

According to research cited in the report, about two-thirds of U.S. children and teens younger than 18 will experience at least one traumatic event, including shootings and other violence, car crashes and weather disasters. That includes survivors and witnesses of trauma. Most will not suffer any long-term psychological problems, but about



In this Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011 file photo, students listen during an assembly on the first day of school at a temporary high school in a converted store in Joplin, Mo., nearly three months after an EF-5 tornado destroyed six schools and damaged four others along with killing 160 people and devastating a third of the city.

13 percent will develop symptoms of post-traumatic stress, including anxiety, behavior difficulties and other problems related to the event.

The report's conclusions don't mean that no treatment works. It's just that no one knows which treatments are best, or if certain ones work

better for some children but not others.

"Our findings serve as a call to action," the researchers wrote in their analysis, pub-

lished online Monday by the journal *Pediatrics*.

"This is a very important topic, just in light of recent events," said lead author Valerie Forman-Hoffman, a researcher at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

She has two young children and said the results suggest that it's likely one of them will experience some kind of trauma before reaching adulthood. "As a parent I want to know what works best," the researcher said.

Besides the December massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, other recent tragedies involving young survivors or witnesses include the fatal shooting last month of a 15-year-old Chicago girl gunned down in front of a group of friends; Superstorm Sandy in October; and the 2011 Joplin, Mo., tornado, whose survivors include students whose high school was destroyed.

Some may do fine with no treatment; others will need some sort of counseling to help them cope.

Studying which treatments are most effective is difficult because so many things affect

how a child or teen will fare emotionally after a traumatic event, said Dr. Denise Dowd, an emergency physician and research director at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo., who wrote a *Pediatrics* editorial.

One of the most important factors is how the child's parents handle the aftermath, Dowd said.

"If the parent is freaking out" and has difficulty controlling emotions, kids will have a tougher time dealing with trauma. Traumatized kids need to feel like they're in a safe and stable environment, and if their parents have trouble coping, "it's going to be very difficult for the kid," she said.

The researchers analyzed 25 studies of treatments that included anti-anxiety and depression drugs, school-based counseling, and various types of psychotherapy. The strongest evidence favored school-based treatments involving cognitive behavior therapy, which helps patients find ways to cope with disturbing thoughts and emotions, sometimes including talking repeatedly about their trauma.

Northeast slowly recovering from blizzard

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—Travel eased and life slowly returned to normal for most New Englanders after a massive blizzard, but many remained without power in cold and darkened homes and a forecast of rain brought a new worry: Weight piling up dangerously on roofs already burdened by heavy snow.

The storm that slammed into the region with up to 3 feet of snow was blamed for at least 15 deaths in the Northeast and Canada, and brought some of the highest accumulations ever recorded. Still, coastal areas were largely spared catastrophic damage despite being lashed by strong waves and hurricane-force wind gusts at

the height of the storm.

Hundreds of people, their homes without heat or electricity, were forced to take refuge in emergency shelters set up in schools or other places.

"For all the complaining everyone does, people really came through," said Rich Dinsmore, 65, of Newport, R.I., who was staying at a Red Cross shelter set up in a middle school in Middletown after the power went out in his home on Friday.

Dinsmore, who has emphysema, was first brought by ambulance to a hospital after the medical equipment he relies on failed when the power went out and he had difficulty breathing.

"The police, the fire department, the state, the Red Cross, the volunteers, it really worked well," said the retired radio broadcaster and Army veteran.

Utility crews, some brought in from as far away as Georgia, Oklahoma and Quebec, raced to restore power to more than 220,000 customers—down from 650,000 in eight states at the height of the storm. In hardest-hit Massachusetts, where some 180,000 customers remained without power on Sunday, officials said some of the outages might linger until Tuesday.

Driving bans were lifted and flights resumed at major airports in the region that

had closed during the storm, though many flights were still canceled Sunday.

The Boston-area public transportation system, which shut down on Friday afternoon, partially resumed subway service and some bus routes on Sunday. Beverly Scott, general manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, said full service was expected on Monday—albeit with delays.

"Give yourself more time and expect that it is going to take us more time," Scott advised riders.

Boston public schools were among many in the region that had already decided to cancel classes on Monday.

Senator vows to delay Obama's nominees over Libya

WASHINGTON (AP)—A leading Republican senator said Sunday he would hold up Senate confirmation of President Barack Obama's nominees to head the Pentagon and the CIA until the White House provided more answers about the Sept. 11 attack against a U.S. installation in Benghazi, Libya.

The White House took aim at South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a persistent critic of Obama's response to the terrorist assault, by urging quick approval of the president's second-term national security team and scolding any lawmakers trying to "play politics" with critical nominations.

Graham accused the White House of "stonewalling" requests to release more information about the attack that killed four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya.

"We're going to get to the bottom of Benghazi," he told CBS' "Face the Nation."

A Democratic colleague branded Graham's threat to stall the nominations of former Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., to be defense secretary and John Brennan, Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, to be CIA director as "unprecedented and unwarranted." Senators should have the chance to vote on the fate of those nominees, said Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

The White House did not address Graham's demand for more information, but did note that Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified Thursday before Congress

about the chaotic day of the Sept. 11 attack.

In January Graham had signaled he would delay Brennan's pick and told Fox News he would "absolutely" block Hagel unless Panetta and Dempsey testified about the Benghazi attack. The senator said he was "happy as a clam" when he learned the hearing with Panetta and Dempsey had been scheduled.

Republicans have accused the Obama administration of an election-year cover-up of the attack and at the hearing several suggested the commander in chief was disengaged as Americans died.

"We know nothing about what the president did on the night of September 11th during a time of national crisis, and the

American people need to know what their commander in chief did, if anything, during this eight-hour attack," Graham said on CBS.

Graham contended that a six-person rescue team was delayed from leaving the Benghazi airport because of problems "with the militias releasing them and a lot of bureaucratic snafus," and he said he wants to know whether Obama called any Libyan officials to expedite their mission.

"I don't think we should allow Brennan to go forward for the CIA directorship, Hagel to be confirmed to secretary of defense until the White House gives us an accounting," Graham said, adding, "What did he do that night? That's not unfair. The families need to know, the American people need to know."

ACROSS THE NATION

Homes wrecked, dozens hurt in Mississippi tornado

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP)—A tornado tore through Hattiesburg on Sunday as part of a wave of severe storms that downed trees, damaged buildings and injured more than a dozen people. The twister traveled down one of Hattiesburg's main streets and mangled homes, commercial buildings and structures on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. Emergency officials said at least 10 people were injured in surrounding Forrest County and three were hurt to the west in Marion County, but they weren't aware of any deaths.

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency spokesman Greg Flynn said it appears that a single tornado caused the damage in those two counties and Lamar County. Hundreds of homes are damaged in Forrest County, along with a couple dozen in the other two.

Search for fugitive ex-cop sets region on edge

IRVINE, Calif. (AP)—Police blocked off a street and stood guard in front of a home in a typically quiet Southern California suburb Sunday, protecting a man they believe has been targeted by a fugitive ex-police officer suspected of killing three people and setting the region on edge by eluding authorities in

a sprawling manhunt that has lasted days. Irvine residents, meanwhile, were left to adjust to life in the midst of a heavy police presence and wonder when things might return to normal. Authorities have been working to protect dozens of families in the area considered targets based on Christopher Dorner's Facebook rant against those he held responsible for ending his career with the Los Angeles Police Department five years ago.

Hospital releases 3 New Orleans shooting victims

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Gunshots erupted in a crowd of bead-wearing, drink-carrying late-night revelers on Bourbon Street during the countdown to Mardi Gras, wounding four people and sending bystanders running and screaming. Hours later on Sunday, though, the same stretch was packed with partiers who said they weren't letting the violence dampen their fun. In a video taken by a witness Saturday night and released the next day, the shootings are preceded by footage of people standing shoulder to shoulder in New Orleans' famed tourist district, with some holding green plastic cups and wearing gaudy hats or masks. A section of the frame highlighted by police shows people jostling and speaking with angry expressions.



Graham

Asia

PH town mourns largest captive crocodile

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A southern Philippine town plans to hold funeral rites for the world's largest saltwater crocodile and then preserve its remains in a museum to keep tourists coming and prevent their community from slipping back into obscurity, the town's mayor said Monday.

The 1-ton crocodile was declared dead Sunday a few hours after flipping over with a bloated stomach in a pond in an eco-tourism park in Bunawan town, which had started to draw tourists, revenue and development because of the immense reptile, Mayor Edwin Cox Elorde said.

"The whole town, in fact the whole province, is mourning," Elorde said from Bunawan in Agusan del Sur province. "My phones kept ringing because people wanted to say how affected they are."

Guinness World Records had proclaimed it the largest saltwater crocodile in captivity last year, measuring the giant at 6.17 meters (20.24 feet). The reptile took the top spot from an Australian crocodile that measured more than 5 meters (17 feet) and weighed nearly a ton.

The crocodile was named Lolong, after a government en-



In this Sept. 4, 2011 file photo, residents watch as Mayor Cox Elorde of Bunawan township, Agusan del Sur province, pretends to measure a huge crocodile, later named "Lolong," after its capture by residents and staff of a crocodile farm along a creek in Bunawan in southern Philippines.

vironmental officer who died from a heart attack after traveling to Bunawan to help capture the beast. The crocodile, estimated to be more than 50 years old, was blamed for a few brutal deaths of villagers before Bunawan folk came to love it.

The giant reptile has come to symbolize the rich bio-diversity of Agusan marsh, where it was captured. The vast complex of swamp forests, shallow lakes, lily-covered ponds and wetlands is home to wild ducks, herons, egrets and threatened species

like the Philippine Hawk Eagle.

Wildlife experts were to perform an autopsy as early as Monday to determine the cause of its death, Elorde said.

Bunawan villagers planned to perform a tribal ritual, which involves butchering chicken

and pigs as funeral offerings to thank forest spirits for the fame and other blessings the crocodile has brought, Elorde said. A group of Christians would separately offer prayers before the autopsy.

The rites would be held at

New US commander takes the helm in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford took charge of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan on Sunday as the coalition enters its final stretch of the more than 11-year-old war.

The new commander faces daunting challenges, including making sure Afghan government forces are ready to take control and orchestrating the withdrawal of foreign forces during the next 23 months.

Dunford, who will likely be the last commander of the U.S.-led international military coalition, succeeded Marine Gen. John Allen, who oversaw the buildup of governmental security forces and dealt with a series of setbacks—from Qurans burned at a U.S. base to a spike

in deadly insider attacks that killed international troops.

"Today is not about change, it's about continuity," Dunford said during the handover ceremony at the coalition's headquarters in Kabul. "What's not changed is the growing capability of our Afghan partners, the Afghan national security forces. What's not changed is our commitment. More importantly, what's not changed is the inevitability of our success."

The change in command comes at a critical time for President Barack Obama, who may use Tuesday's State of the Union address to announce a timetable for pulling out the remaining American combat forces by the end of 2014 and plans for a residual U.S. force

post-2014.

Dunford faces the challenge of overseeing the drawdown of about 100,000 foreign troops, including 66,000 from the United States, and helping the Afghans counter insurgent groups, including the Haqqani network, that show no sign of compromise. The Haqqani network, based in Pakistani tribal areas near the Afghan border, has ties to al-Qaida and is thought to be responsible for many attacks on U.S. and Afghan forces, including the recent spate of so-called insider attacks.

Dunford also must help Afghanistan secure its next presidential election in 2014—the first ballot since the U.S. invasion that will not include

the eco-tourism park, where the reptile had emerged as a star attraction, drawing foreign tourists, scientists and wildlife reporting outfits like the National Geographic to Bunawan, a far-flung town of 37,000 people about 515 miles (830 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

The crocodile's capture in September 2011 sparked celebrations in Bunawan, but it also raised concerns that more giant crocodiles might lurk in a marshland and creek where villagers fish. The crocodile was captured with steel cable traps during a hunt prompted by the death of a child in 2009 and the later disappearance of a fisherman. Water buffalos have also been attacked by crocodiles in the area.

About 100 people led by Elorde pulled the crocodile from a creek using a rope and then hoisted it by crane onto a truck.

Philippine officials had planned to construct a road to the park to accommodate the growing number of tourists, Elorde said, adding that he planned to have the crocodile preserved and placed in a museum so Bunawan villagers and tourists could still marvel at it.

President Hamid Karzai as a candidate.

"Much work lies ahead," Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the ceremony, which was attended by senior Afghan and U.S. military officials. Karzai did not attend.

Relations between the United States and Pakistan have greatly improved in recent months after a series of visits to Islamabad by Allen. Allen has worked to patch up ties after they hit historic lows following a border airstrike in late 2011 that killed two dozen Pakistani soldiers. Allen took Dunford along last week to Islamabad when he paid a farewell visit to the chief of the Pakistani army, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH president travels to rebel stronghold

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III has traveled to a Muslim rebel stronghold in the country's south to jointly launch with top guerrillas projects aimed at improving life in the area and bolstering the prospects of a peace deal. Hundreds of soldiers, police and Moro Islamic Liberation Front fighters guarded Monday's ceremony in Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao province, which has a recent history of major battles be-

tween troops and insurgents, who were at times suspected to have been aided by al-Qaida-linked extremists. Under the new project, Aquino's government is pledging to provide health insurance, assistance in finding jobs and funding for schools for rebel families.

Bus crashes in Bangladesh, killing at least 16

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—A bus packed with Muslim pilgrims plunged off a bridge into a muddy ditch early Monday in Bangladesh, killing at least 16

people, police said. The bodies recovered from the bus included children, said local police officer Ranjit Kumar Barua. Rescuers took another 15 people who were injured to a hospital, and the rest of the occupants were not hurt. The accident happened in Cox's Bazar district, 296 kilometers (185 miles) south of Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka.

1 dead in Indian Kashmir protests after man hanged
SRINAGAR, India (AP)—One

person was killed as protests broke out in at least two parts of Indian-controlled Kashmir on Sunday despite a strict curfew to prevent violence after the execution of a Kashmiri man convicted in a deadly 2001 attack on India's Parliament. Mohammed Afzal Guru was hanged in New Delhi early Saturday. Ahead of the execution, authorities ordered people in most of the Indian-held part of the disputed Kashmir region to remain indoors indefinitely in anticipation of anti-India protests.

36 dead in stampede at Hindu festival in India

ALLAHABAD, India (AP)—The death toll from a stampede in a train station rose to 36 on Monday in a northern India city where millions of devotees had gathered for a Hindu festival that is one of the world's largest religious gatherings.

At least 36 other pilgrims were injured in the crush in the city of Allahabad, medical superintendent Dr. P. Padmakar of the main state-run hospital said. Padmakar said 23 of the dead were women.

Tens of thousands of people were in the city's main rail station waiting to board a train when railway officials announced a last-minute change in the platform, forcing people to rush there, eyewitnesses said.

They said police stopped the throng from crowding onto a footbridge and had to use batons to stop the crowds from surging forward.

"We heard an announcement that our train is coming on platform number 4 and when we started moving towards that platform through an overbridge, we were stopped. Then suddenly the police charged us with batons and the stampede started," passenger Shushanto Kumar Sen said.

"People started tumbling over one another and within

no time I saw people, particularly women and children, being trampled over by others," Sen said.

The police, however, denied that they had used batons to control the crowd.

"It was simply a case of overcrowding. People were in a hurry to go back and there were not enough arrangements by the railway authorities," said Arun Kumar, a senior police officer.

India's railway minister Pawan Kumar Bansal said an inquiry has been ordered into what led to the stampede.

Indian television stations showed large crowds pushing and jostling at the train station as policemen struggled to restore order.

"There was complete chaos. There was no doctor or ambulance for at least two hours after the accident," an eyewitness told NDTV news channel.

An estimated 30 million Hindus were expected to take a dip at the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna and the Saraswati rivers on Sunday, one of the holiest bathing days of the Kumbh Mela, or Pitcher Festival. The festival lasts 55 days and is one of the world's largest religious gatherings.

World

Islamic extremists attack Malian troops in Gao

GAO, Mali (AP)—Black-robed Islamic extremists armed with AK-47 automatic rifles invaded Gao in wooden boats Sunday to launch a surprise attack on the most populous city in northern Mali, two weeks after French and Malian troops ousted the jihadists.

Gunfire echoed for hours across the city of mud-walled buildings. The combat started at about 2 p.m. in downtown Gao and the fighting was continuing as night fell. Later the sound of gunfire was replaced by the clattering of French military helicopters overhead.

The attack in Gao shows the Islamic fighters, many of them well-armed and with combat experience, are determined and daring and it foreshadows a protracted campaign by France and other nations to restore government control in this vast Saharan nation in northwest Africa.

The Islamic radicals fought against the Malian army throughout the afternoon and were seen roaming the narrow streets blanketed in sand and on rooftops in the center of Gao, which had a population of 90,000 before the conflict caused thousands to flee.

Families hid in their homes. One family handed plastic cups of water through the locked iron gate to others hiding on their patio. Piles of onions lay unattended where market women fled when



A Malian soldier takes cover behind a truck during exchanges of fire with jihadists in Gao, northern Mali, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013. AP

the Islamists arrived. There were no signs of civilian casualties.

The fighting appeared to center near the police headquarters, where Malian soldiers with rocket propelled grenades traded fire with the combatants believed to be from the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, or MUJAO. The only

sound in the city was gunfire and the bleating of goats. Soldiers were positioned at every corner in the neighborhood.

Ever since French forces took Gao on Jan. 26, the Islamic rebels had clashed with security forces on the city's outskirts. This was the first time they succeeded in entering the strategic city.

The Islamic fighters used pirogues, large wooden dugouts with motors, and other boats to cross the Niger River and penetrate Gao, according to French Gen. Bernard Barrera, who cited Malian officials.

The Islamic radicals had already tried to spread violence into Gao. On Saturday night, a

suicide bomber detonated himself at a checkpoint at the entrance to the city, killing himself and wounded one Malian soldier. An earlier suicide bomber on a motorcycle also blew himself up at the same security spot on Friday, killing only himself.

Besides Gao, French and Malian forces have also retaken the

fabled city of Timbuktu and other northern towns, pushing the Islamic extremists back into the desert, where they pose a constant threat to Malian and allied forces. But the Islamic fighters made strategic retreats and are dug into desert hideouts, from where they are expected to continue challenging the control of the cities by French, Malian and allied forces. Several African nations have contributed troops to battle the extremists, who imposed their harsh version of Islamic Shariah law when they controlled the northern cities.

The armed Islamic fighters seized the northern half of Mali in April 2012, sending poorly disciplined and equipped Malian forces retreating in disarray. France launched its military intervention in its former colony on Jan. 11 when the Islamic radicals, many of whom had fought for ex-Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, began encroaching on the south, threatening the capital Bamako which lies deep in southern Mali, 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) from Gao.

France has said that it wants to hand over responsibility to the Malian military and other African nations who have contributed troops and has raised with the United Nations Security Council the possibility of establishing a U.N. peacekeeping operation in Mali.

Rebels, troops battle for key Damascus highway

BEIRUT (AP)—Opposition forces targeted Damascus with mortars, a roadside bomb and a suicide attack on Sunday as they pressed ahead in their quest for the seat of President Bashar Assad's power.

Outside the capital, government troops battled rebels for the fifth straight day for control of a key highway. Both sides consider the fight for Damascus the most likely endgame in a nearly two-year-old civil war that has already killed more than 60,000 people.

Sunday's fighting was the heaviest in Damascus since the first rebel push into the capital in July. The rebels then managed

to capture several neighborhoods, but were soon bombed out during a punishing government counteroffensive.

Since then, the rebels have threatened the heavily fortified capital from opposition strongholds around the city. Damascus, however, has been spared the kind of violence and destruction that has been seen in other major urban centers during the conflict.

A rebel fighter told The Associated Press that opposition forces on Sunday overran another roadblock, al-Adnan checkpoint in Jobar, northeast of Damascus. He spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

But the Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights, an anti-regime activist group, said that while the fight for the highway continues, government troops regained control of

the area on Sunday after using fighter jets to bomb rebel positions the day before.

A mortar that hit a Damascus street near Shabandar Square killed four people and injured several others, a government official told the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to brief the media.

State-run SANA news agency said a roadside bomb detonated at Arnous street, in the heart of Damascus, injuring several people. In another part of the city, a suicide bomber blew himself up. He was the only one who died in the blast in Rouken al-Deen neighborhood, the official news service said.

An alarm was sounded and port authorities were alerted. The captain of the cruise ship called for the divers who arrived at the capsized lifeboat.

The dead crewmen included three Indonesians, a Filipino and a Ghanaian, authorities said. The three injured crew members were taken by ambulance to a hospital in La Palma and the nationality of only one of them was immediately known: Greek.

Local authorities of La Palma canceled Carnival festivities that had been due to be held on the island Sunday, but said they would go ahead as planned on Monday.

103 said killed in South Sudan cattle raid clash

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)—More than 100 people were killed in a violence-prone region of South Sudan when one tribe attacked another while cattle were being moved across land, officials said Sunday.

Kuol Manyang Juuk, the governor of Jonglei state, said 103 people died in the Friday clash in Akobo County. Juuk said 17 of the attackers were killed and that 14 soldiers from South Sudan's military, the SPLA, who were accompanying the cattle-moving tribe also died.

Jonglei County has been wracked by massive bouts of tribal violence for years. The United Nations says more than 2,600 violence-related deaths were reported in Jonglei from January 2011 to September 2012, and account for more than half of reported deaths in South Sudan, a country that is emerging from the shambles of a decades-long war.

Jonglei state covers northeastern South Sudan. Akobo County Commissioner Goi Joyul said the attack took place during a yearly migration in which members of the Lou Nuer ethnic group were driving cattle across the Sobat River. The commissioner said survivors of the attack saw the assail-

ants use rocket-propelled grenades in addition to machetes and spears "thus overwhelming an SPLA force accompanying the people."

Joyul said the attackers in Friday's violence are believed to be members of the rebel group led by David Yau Yau. A former member of the South Sudanese army from the Murle ethnic group, Yau Yau launched a rebellion after failing to win a parliamentary seat in the Sudanese general elections in April 2010. South Sudan has repeatedly accused Sudan of backing Yau Yau and airlifting weapons and supplies to remote corners of Jonglei. Khartoum denies providing any support to the rebel group.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it sent a surgical team to Akobo to help treat those injured in the attack. United Nations Mission in South Sudan spokesman Koudier Zerrouk said a joint team from it and the government of South Sudan traveled to the area on Sunday and was assessing the situation.

The attacks on Lou Nuer pastoralists in Akobo came just over one year after a wave of cattle raids and counter attacks between Lou Nuer and Murle.

Cruise ship lifeboat accident kills 5 in Spain

LA PALMA, Canary Islands (AP)—A lifeboat being used on a safety drill aboard a cruise ship in Spain's Canary Islands fell about 65 feet (20 meters) into a port on Sunday when a cable snapped, trapping crew members beneath it and killing five of them, officials said.

Thomson Cruises confirmed the accident and the casualties aboard its Thomson Majesty ship on the island of La Palma, saying the three injured crewmen were not badly hurt.

The ship docked at the island's port of Santa Cruz in the morning, after arriving there from the neighboring island of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It

which had hit the water upside down, recovering four bodies and trying without success to revive a fifth crewman who had stopped breathing, the authority said.

At 10:30 a.m. a drill consisting of lowering a lifeboat with crew members aboard began.

About an hour later, when the lifeboat was being hoisted back up to the deck, a cable holding it snapped and a hook holding the lifeboat on a second cable gave way, sending the lifeboat plunging into the port upside down, the authority said in a statement.

Focus

Woman in Timbuktu punished for forbidden love

TIMBUKTU, Mali (AP)—The love story in this fabled desert outpost began over the phone, when he dialed the wrong number. It nearly ended with the couple's death at the hands of Islamic extremists who considered their romance "haram"—forbidden.

What happened in between is a study in how al-Qaida-linked militants terrorized a population, whipping women and girls in northern Mali almost every day for not adhering to their interpretation of the strict moral code known as Shariah. It is also a testament to the violent clash between the brutal, unyielding Islam of the invaders and the moderate version of the religion that has long prevailed in Timbuktu, once a center for Islamic learning.

Salaka Djicke is a round-faced, big-boned girl with the wide thighs still fashionable in the desert, an unforgiving terrain that leaves many women without curves. Until the Islamists came and upended her world, the 24-year-old lived a relatively free life.

During the day, she helped her mother bake bread in a mud oven, selling each puffy piece for 50 francs (10 cents). In the afternoon, she grilled meat on an open fire and sold brochettes on the side of the road. She saved the money she earned to buy herself makeup and get her hair styled.

Like her sisters and friends, she spoke openly with men—including the stranger who called her by mistake more than a year ago.

The man thought he was calling his cousin. When he heard Salaka's voice, he apologized. His voice was polite but firm, with the authoritative cadence of a man in his prime. Hers was flirtatious, and her laugh betrayed her youth.

They started talking.

A few days later, he called her again. For two weeks, they spoke nearly every day, until he asked for directions to her house.

She explained how to find the mud house on Rue 141, past the water tower also made of mud, in a neighborhood less than a mile from where he sold gasoline from jerrycans by the roadside. She had time to put on a yellow dress.

He arrived on his motorcycle.

He was older—she does not know how old—and already married, a status that bears no taboo in a predominantly Muslim region where men can take up to four wives. She found him handsome.

From that day on, he ended phone conversations with the phrase, 'Ye bani,' or 'I love you' in the Sonrai language. Instead of Salaka, he called her "cherie"—sweetheart in French, still spoken in this former French colony.

He showered her with gifts, starting with a 6-yard-long piece of bazin fabric, the hand-dyed, polished cotton which is the mainstay of Malian fashion. It was a royal violet, and he paid to have it tailored into a two-piece outfit, with a flame-like flourish of orange brocade on the bodice.

She put it on for him, and they went to the photo studio one street over. They stood against the poster backdrop of an enamel-blue waterfall. He put his arms around her and invited her to sit on his lap.

By the time the first group of rebel fighters carrying the flag of the National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad drove past her house on April

1, the two had been seeing each other for several months. He called to see if she was OK.

These fighters in military uniforms made clear their goal: They wanted to create an independent homeland known as Azawad for Mali's marginalized Tuareg people.

Only days later, a different group of fighters arrived, wearing beards and tunics that looked like the kurtas common in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Their black flag resembled the one people had seen on YouTube videos posted by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. They called themselves Ansar Dine, or "Defenders of the Faith."

They produced a pamphlet outlining how a woman should wear the veil, and whom she could and could not be seen with. Eschewing any contact with women, they handed the leaflets out to the men.

One of them was Salaka's boyfriend. He drove his motorcycle to her house to give it to her.

She didn't have enough money to buy the plain, colorless veil prescribed to cover the entire body. So her boyfriend went to the market and paid for two, one red and one blue. The women of sub-Saharan Africa are so used to wearing vibrant colors, he couldn't find any that were black. ---

As their love affair grew more intense, so did the crackdown by the Islamists in northern Mali, an area equal in size to Afghanistan.

Three months after they arrived, they arrested an illiterate man and woman, both dirt-poor herders living together for years with their animals outside the town of Aguelhok. The man had left his wife to reunite with his teenage love, and they had two children out of wedlock, the youngest just six months old.

In the last week of July, the Islamists sped into their nomadic camp and arrested them. They drove them to the city center, where they announced the couple would be stoned to death for adultery.

They dug a hole the size of a man and forced them to kneel inside. They made the villagers come out to see what Shariah was.

Then they cast the first stone.

The fear was now palpable on the streets of Timbuktu. Salaka and her boyfriend stopped seeing each other in public. When he came, they sat in the enclosed courtyard of her parents' home, behind the veil of its chrome-red dirt walls.

Even in relatively modern Timbuktu, it was not considered appropriate to leave the couple alone in a room. So he arranged for a friend to loan him the keys to his empty house in a neighborhood less than a mile away.

Would she please join him there, just for an hour, once a week?

She hesitated. He begged her, saying he couldn't be without her. They determined that the Islamic police stopped their patrols at 10 p.m.

She went once and got home safely. She went again.

They began meeting once a week. She insisted on staying no longer than 40 minutes. He brought her on his motorcycle, stopping close to the house and pushing the bike through a blanket of sand to avoid attention.

By this time, the Islamists were beating everyone from pregnant

They took her to the market at noon on Jan. 4, the same place where she bought the beef for the brochettes she sold and the flour used to make her mother's flatbread. She recognized the meat sellers. One of them used his phone to record what happened next.

The police made her kneel in a traffic circle. They covered her in a gauze-like shroud. They told her to remove her dress, leaving only the thin fabric to protect her skin from the whip. Curious children jostled for a better view.

What they did to her was witnessed by dozens of people in Timbuktu, and can still be heard on the meat seller's cell phone.

The executor announced Salaka's crime and her punishment. Then he began flogging her with a switch made from the branch of a tree. Her high-pitched cries are contorted with pain. You can hear the slap of the whip. You can hear her labored breathing.

They hit her so hard and for so long that at one point she wasn't sure if the veil had fallen off. She could feel the blood seeping through.

When it was over, they told her that if they ever saw her with a man again, they would kill her.

Her lover called as soon as she got home. The night she was caught, he ran away to Mali's distant capital, becoming one of an estimated 385,000 people who have fled their homes from the north.

He said over and over: "I'm sorry." He promised to marry her. But he has not yet returned. She still will not name him, fearing the Islamist extremists will be back.

Her face warms when she speaks of him and contracts when she describes her pain and humiliation. There isn't a child in Timbuktu who doesn't recognize her, she says. Even now she avoids the market, sending her sisters to buy the meat instead.

"This was a tyrannical regime, which had no pity towards women," she says. "I'm not the only one that went through this. I did this because I was in love."

Last week, Salaka was among the thousands of people who poured into the streets to cheer French soldiers as they liberated the city. She folded and put away her blue and red veils.

In recent days, she pulled out her lover's gift of the violet bazin with the flame-patterned brocade from the bottom of a pile of clothes she was not allowed to wear under the city's occupiers. She painted her lips a translucent fuschia. She went to the newly opened hairdresser.

The photo studio where she and her lover posed by the cardboard waterfall remains closed, so instead her brother snapped a picture of her.

If you look closely, you can see the marks left by the whip across her now-naked shoulders.

Salaka's story was pieced together from interviews with her over three days. Salaka took AP journalists to the rendezvous house, the place where she was arrested, the ATM machine, her prison cell and the market. Her family, city officials and several witnesses confirmed the whipping, and a meat seller shared with the AP a sound recording that captures the sentencing and her screams. The account of the stoning in Aguelhok is from the city's mayor.



In this Feb. 4, 2013 photo, Salaka Djicke stands at the entrance to the women's jail where she was held for two nights by Islamic police after being caught having a relationship with a married man, in Timbuktu, Mali.

mothers and grandmothers to 9-year-olds for not covering themselves fully. A woman was no longer supposed to talk even to her own brother on the stoop of her house.

At a certain point Salaka knew they were going to get caught. She planned out what they would say.

In one version, she would say he was her uncle. In another she would call him her older brother. In yet another, they would try to pass off as a married couple.

On the night of Dec. 31, the two left Salaka's house on a motorcycle, headed west and turned onto Road No. 160.

They passed the bread oven belonging to one of her mother's competitors. They skirted an alley crowded with handmade bricks laid out to dry. They turned left, and then right again, taking a circuitous path to confuse anyone who might be following them.

When they got close, they chose the narrowest alleyways, used only by motorcycles and donkey carts instead of the Toyota pickup trucks of the Islamic police. They passed the house where they planned to meet and doubled back in an alley. He cut the motorcycle's engine, told her to stay 100 yards behind him and pushed the bike through the sand as usual.

She watched him leave. She was breathing so hard she was afraid the stars could hear her. He passed the first intersection, then the second, and then the third.

The bearded men came on foot via the third intersection. There were four of them. Her lover jumped on his motorcycle and gunned it across the sand. He was the married one and would have paid the higher price.

She knew she couldn't outrun them. So she stood. And in the moments it took for them to descend on her, she realized it would be futile to lie.

They took her to the headquarters of the Islamic police, inside a branch of the local bank. They shoved her into the closet-like space where the ATM machine is located and locked the gate behind her.

When she didn't come home that night, her worried sister called her cell phone. The Islamic police answered and told her where Salaka was.

In the morning, her family came to slip her a piece of bread through the grills of the gate, feeding her like an animal at the zoo. Later that day, the police transferred her to a prison they had set up just for women in a wing of the city's central jail. For the next three nights, she slept alone on a hard floor in a large, cement room.

On Jan. 3 they took her to the Islamic tribunal. Just eight days before French President Francois Hollande unilaterally approved a military intervention in Mali on Jan. 11, Salaka was convicted of being caught with a man who was not her husband and sentenced to 95 lashes. It was a severe punishment even by the standards of the Islamists.

Overdrive

Honda Accord gets size, fuel economy right for 2013

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

It's not exactly back to the future, but at a minimum, the 2013 Accord midsize sedan takes Honda back to before 2008. That was when Honda introduced the last version of the Accord, and that was when one of America's favorite midsize sedans lost its way.

Bloated and uncompetitive, the 2008 Accord trailed its competitors' technology and fuel economy. After decades as a customer and critical favorite for its value, performance and efficiency, the Accord was suddenly mediocre.

Honda right-sized the Accord for 2013, shrinking the car back into the heart of the midsize segment. A new engine and transmission also restore its accustomed status as a fuel-economy leader.

Honda builds a wide range of Accord models. Prices for the sedan start at \$21,680 for one with a new direct-injected 185-horsepower 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine and a six-speed manual transmission.

The only automatic transmission available with that engine is a smooth new continuously variable unit. The least expensive Accord sedan with the CVT automatic starts at \$22,480. Base prices for four-cylinder Accords extend to \$29,995.

The Accord also has a 278-horsepower V-6 teamed with a conventional six-speed automatic gearbox. Prices for a V-6 Accord sedan start at \$30,070 and extend to \$33,430 for the top-of-the-line V-6 Touring model.



HONDA/MCT

Honda shrank the 2013 Accord back into the heart of the midsize segment. A new engine and transmission also restored its accustomed status as a fuel-economy leader.

I tested a four-cylinder Accord EX sedan that's nearly dead in the middle of the model line. The nicely equipped car I tested had no options and stickered at \$25,405. All prices exclude destination charges.

Honda also builds an Accord coupe. It comes with the same engine and transmission choices. Prices range from \$23,350 to

\$32,350.

Hybrid and plug-in hybrid models of the Accord sedan should go on sale this summer. Prices for the plug-in will start at \$39,780.

That broad model line notwithstanding, cars like the four-cylinder EX will comprise the great majority of Accord sedan sales. It competes with similarly priced versions of the Malibu, Fusion, Sonata, Optima, Camry and Passat.

The 2.4-liter provides good acceleration and throttle response. The engine gets buzzy at high rpm, but road and wind noise are fine.

The Accord is quiet, comfortable and acceptably responsive. The steering felt a bit vague and road holding may not match the Altima, Fusion and Malibu, but the suspension absorbs bumps smoothly.

The Accord sedan's strengths are passenger room and fuel economy. The interior is comfortable and accommodating, with good head, leg and shoulder room in the front

and rear seats.

The interior features soft-touch surfaces. The speedometer and tachometer are large and easy to read.

A couple of glitches marred the car I tested. The latch on the sunglasses holder in the headliner worked poorly, sometimes refusing to open or close.

The voice-recognition system for hands-free phones requires more steps than the best competitors. The USB input is rather inconveniently located in the bottom of the center stack.

The Accord's biggest innovation is an unusual approach to blind-spot alert. Just about every automaker with a blind-spot alert uses a flashing light, and in some cases a chime, to let drivers know when somebody's in their blind spot on the right or left side of the car.

Honda took a different—and I think inferior—approach. Called Lane Watch, it displays an image of the two lanes to the right and behind the car on a video screen located in the center stack, near the radio and

climate controls.

I found it ineffective and distracting. Unlike other automakers' systems that use sensors to tell you when a vehicle is in your blind spot, it operates only when you use the indicator for a right turn or lane change. There's no warning when you need it most—when somebody's in the blind spot and you forget to indicate a lane change. The screen also lights up every time you use the right indicator, creating a new distraction by demanding your attention regardless of whether it has any information you need. It's a poor system.

The Accord four-cylinder's fuel economy, on the other hand, is very good. Excluding more expensive models that use hybrid technology to reduce fuel consumption, its EPA combined city and highway fuel economy rating of 30 mpg beats every competitive midsize sedan except the Nissan Altima.

Honda's trip back to the future may not be a blockbuster, but fire up the flux capacitor. This sequel is worth a look.

Chevrolet unveils first diesel car for US since 1986

By CHRIS WOODYARD
USA TODAY

CHICAGO—In another sign that diesel power is starting to make inroads with American drivers, General Motors this week at the show here took the wraps off its first diesel-powered car for the U.S. since 1986.

The high-mileage diesel model of the Chevrolet Cruze compact sedan will go on sale this summer. On the outside it looks pretty much the same as any Cruze except for the 2.0 TD, for Turbo Diesel.

But under the hood is a 2.0-liter, 148-horsepower diesel

engine that is expected to be rated 42 miles per gallon on the highway—good for a 600-mile range on the 15-gallon tank.

The diesel, with a strong 248 pound-feet of torque, also is expected to accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 8.6 seconds.

That's faster than its chief rival, GM says. What is that? GM executives didn't hold back in saying the diesel Cruze is aimed squarely at the oil-burning version of the Volkswagen Jetta, one of several VW diesel models that are proving popular.

Cruze diesel with automatic will start at \$25,695 including shipping—and including a two-

year maintenance plan. The Jetta diesel with automatic starts at \$24,950 (\$23,850 with manual). The Jetta diesel is rated 30 mpg in the city, 42 mpg highway, 34 mpg in city/highway mix.

It's the second high-mileage offering for Cruze, which also offers the special Eco model with mileage boosting tweaks also good for 42 mpg on the highway, but not as much performance as the diesel. The Eco with automatic starts at \$21,685.

GM, in the manner of other diesel sellers, emphasizes that the Cruze diesel will be clean and quiet, unlike those of the past.

seconds, engage the automatic transmission, wait another few seconds and then drive the vehicle up to temperature gently. This will bring the lubricants, fluids and catalytic converter up to temperature quickly for maximum efficiency. Longer warm-up periods are not harmful to the vehicle, but are somewhat wasteful and inefficient.

Q: We have several drivers in our family. Some are patient and will let the engine and fluids warm up for two to five minutes before driving; others start it up and drive off in 20 to 40 seconds. Which is the preferred procedure? Is the procedure or duration different in winter vs. summer?

A: Today's motor vehicles require little or no warm-up before driving. Unless operating in truly extreme conditions, such as temperatures well below zero, the preferred warm-up technique is to start the engine, let it idle for 10-30

Modern steering can feel stiff

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2007 Chevy Silverado with 17,000 miles on it. It has two problems. The voltmeter will show discharge and stay this way until I stop the engine. When I restart, it will then show charging for a while. A new battery didn't help. The dealer says this is normal. Also, the steering at highway speeds feels like it loses power assist—it's stiff when I turn the wheel. Again, the dealer could find nothing wrong. An alignment and new tires did not help.

ANSWER: I'm inclined to agree with the dealer. When was the last time you bought a new vehicle? If it's been a number of years, I think you may well be

experiencing some of the new technology incorporated into modern vehicles to improve efficiency. Specifically, the charging system on your vehicle is designed to reduce alternator output to the 12.6-13.1 volt range when operating in "fuel economy mode." The lower alternator output means less horsepower requirement for charging. When the system needs more output, it will switch to the "charge mode" of 13.9-15.1 volts. Thus, I think you are experiencing a normal characteristic of your vehicle.

Q: My son just bought a 1996 Saturn sedan that he claims has manual (no power) steering—is that possible?

A: Surprisingly, yes. Saturn offered manual steering on certain SL sedans in '96-'97. The vast majority of front-wheel-drive vehicles require power-assisted steering due to engine power transmitted through the front drive shafts and constant velocity joints. The higher the power level applied through the drive shafts, the more ef-

fort/force required to steer the wheel—thus the need for power steering.

GM issued a recall in '97 covering some of these vehicles due to a potential failure of the pinion bearing cage in the manual steering gear that could occur during high-effort, low-speed maneuvering, such as parallel parking.

Q: I have a 2000 Camry with 81,000 miles on it. The time and temperature display doesn't work anymore. The dealer said it could cost several hundred dollars to fix. Is there a less costly fix?

A: Do the dome and courtesy lights work? If not, check the fuse for that circuit located in junction block No. 2 on the inner fender on the driver's side. If this 7.5-amp fuse is blown, the clock won't work. Best I can tell from the electrical schemat-



Life & Style

Mumford & Sons wins best album at Grammys



Mumford & Sons, from left, Ben Lovett, Ted Dwane, Marcus Mumford and Winston Marshall accept the award for album of the year for "Babel" at the 55th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, in Los Angeles. Presenter Adele, right, claps.

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP MUSIC WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mumford & Sons wrapped up a completely unpredictable Grammy Awards with perhaps the most surprising win of the night, taking home album of the year for "Babel."

Even the London folk-rockers were shocked when Adele, who won the trophy last year, presented her countrymen with the award.

"We figured we weren't going to win anything because The Black Keys have been sweeping up all day, rightfully so," Marcus Mumford said.

Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys ended up the night's top winner with four trophies, including producer of the year and three rock category victories with bandmate Patrick Carney. But it was hardly a clean sweep as The Recording Academy's thousands of voters spread the love for the year's top singles.

Fun. took home major awards best new artist, in something of an upset over R&B singer Frank Ocean, and song of the year for the transcendent anthem "We Are Young," featuring Janelle Monae.

"I didn't think we were going to win this one," lead singer Nate Ruess said after the best new artist win. "Frank Ocean. The Lumineers. Everybody, amazing."

Like Mumford & Sons, Gotye busted up the predictions, taking record of the year for 2012's top-selling single, the haunting "Somebody That I Used To Know," featuring New Zealand's Kimbra, and finished with three awards.

Prince, in hood and sunglasses and carrying a sparkly silver cane, presented him with the re-

cord of the year trophy and the Australian paid tribute to The Purple One's influence.

"A little bit lost for words, to receive an award from the man standing behind us with the cane," the Belgian-Australian Gotye said. "Many years listening to this man's music growing up and a big reason I was inspired to make music. Thank you."

Jay-Z and Kanye West had three wins—sharing one award with Ocean—along with electronica star Skrillex,

and a slew of nominees had two wins apiece, including former best new artist winner Esperanza Spalding.

Ocean was shut out in the major categories, but took home two trophies, including best urban contemporary album. Only Chris Brown, with whom Ocean scuffled last month, remained seated as the 25-year-old R&B winner walked to the stage during a standing ovation. Ocean beat Brown, who attended with girlfriend Rihanna, in the category.

In Humble Gratitude

†DR. ISAMU JOE ABRAHAM
Affectionately known as "Sam" or "Doc"

There are no words that can adequately express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to each one of you for the love, support, words of sympathy, monetary and in-kind assistance we received during this most difficult chapter of our lives.

The untimely loss of someone so precious makes life almost unbearable but we take comfort that our Lord needed Isamu for His greater plan. We are truly blessed that the Lord chose our family to share our cherished Isamu's life. The wonderful memories and adventures we had with our beloved Isamu will always be remembered and he will be missed immensely. We pray that we all understand the beauty behind God's plan for each one of us and that each passing day helps to ease the ache in our hearts.

We will never forget you and will remember you in our prayers.

May God Bless Us All.

Thank You, Kulo Mulaap, Kalahngan, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Domo Arigato Gozaimasu.

Felicitas "Tee" Pangelinan Abraham, Children (Lisa, Jody, Jon, and Michelle) and Family

"Find rest, O my soul, IN GOD ALONE; my hope comes from Him."

— Psalm 62:5

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the Family of the Late

Lucia Ana DLG. Cabrera Acebo "Mama Cia"

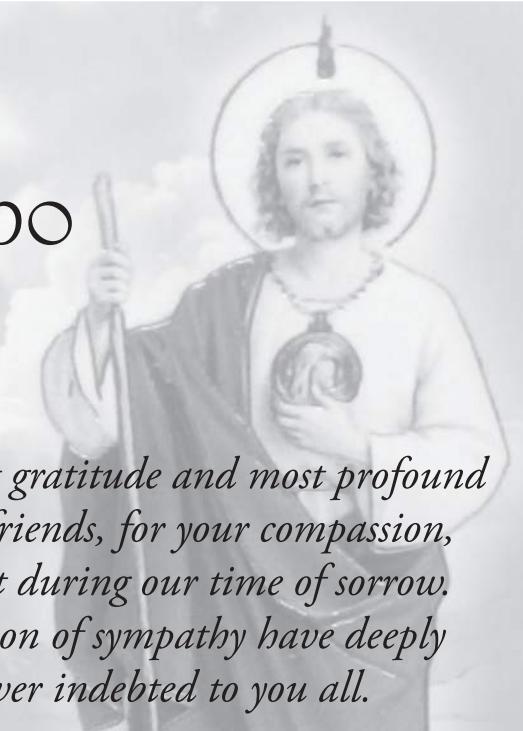


*I*would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and most profound appreciation to all our families and friends, for your compassion, support, and words of encouragement during our time of sorrow. Your prayers and comforting expression of sympathy have deeply touched our hearts. We are forever indebted to you all.

We will always remember you in our thoughts and prayers.

May we continue to receive God's grace and mercy.

*Thank you yan Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase'
Ginen Jesus Sn. Cabrera and Children*



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Warm Bodies

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15		

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich
Genre: Romance, Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A tormented zombie (Nicholas Hoult) experiences a profound transformation after entering into an unusual relationship with the daughter (Teresa Palmer) of a military leader charged with eradicating the walking dead. As the unlikely pair build a tenuous bridge between the living and the dead, those on both sides of the battle begin to sense that nothing in their world will ever be the same again. Warm Bodies is based on the novel by Isaac Marion. Rob Corddry and John Malkovich round out the starring cast.



Bullet to the Head

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon through Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Kang Sung, Sarah Shahi
Genre: Action • Rated R

Synopsis

Steven Spielberg helms his long-in-the-making biopic of Abraham Lincoln for DreamWorks and Touchstone Pictures. Daniel Day-Lewis portrays the former head of state in the Tony Kushner-penned adaptation of Doris Kearns Goodwin's book, Team of Rivals, which chronicles the President's time in office between 1861 and 1865 as he dealt with personal demons and politics during the Civil War.



Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D

Friday	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs	7:25	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen
Genre: Adventure • Rated R

Synopsis

A hitman (Sylvester Stallone) and a cop (Sung Kang) team up to pay back the killers who murdered their old partners in this action thriller from veteran tough guy filmmaker, Walter Hill (48 Hours, The Warriors).



Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 2D

Friday	4:25
Saturday	4:25
Sunday	4:25
Mon through Thurs	4:25

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen
Genre: Adventure • Rated R



Lincoln

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon through Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Cast: Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, David Strathairn
Genre: Drama • Rated PG 13



Mama

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Cast: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Jessica Chastain
Genre: Horror • Rated PG 13



Broken City

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe, Catherine Zeta-Jones
Genre: Drama • Rated R



The Last Stand

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Forest Whitaker
Genre: Action • Rated R

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SHOW BITS

Dealing and dissing at the Grammys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Show Bits brings you the 55th annual Grammy Awards through the eyes of Associated Press journalists.

KEEP ON BIEBVIN'

Justin Bieber can't catch a break.

Not only was the superstar singer not nominated for a Grammy, but a Ustream session that Bieber launched at the same time as the ceremony Sunday to answer questions from fans crashed because it was overloaded. The technical snafu immediately began trending on Twitter, inspiring such popular hashtags as (#hash)ThankYouForTryingJustin and (#hash)JustinUseRedTube.

Bieber tweeted to fans that "livestream is over capacity it not letting me in the room." He apparently couldn't overcome the blunder and later promised to upload a video. (Derrick J. Lang)

RICK ROSS WORKS IT

Rick Ross is a businessman as much as he is a rapper.

"There's a lot of networking to be done here," he said on the red carpet at Sunday's Grammy Awards, adding he had already done "three or four deals."

Ross likes how his genre has taken what he sees as its rightful place at the annual ceremony.

"I feel like hip hop is most definitely more present at the Grammys," he said, noting the presence of what he called such "underground legends" as Nas. (Beth Harris)

THE BROWN-OCEAN STANDOFF

Chris Brown clapped—but didn't stand—when Frank Ocean beat him for the urban contemporary album Grammy.

The standing ovation snub between the pair, who brawled last month over a parking space at a West Hollywood studio, was clearly captured in a screenshot posted on Twitter by the site BuzzFeed.

The image shows Nicole Kidman, Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez, Adele, and several others on their feet while Brown remains seated.

BuzzFeed's photo of Brown's diss was retweeted hundreds of times just a few minutes after it was posted. (Derrick J. Lang)

SKIRTING THE GRAMMY DRESS CODE

Kelly Rowland, in a revealing long black dress, says she just barely skirted this year's Grammy dress code. Sort of.

"I almost broke the code," the R&B singer joked backstage Sunday.

"If I turn to the side I might," she added to laughter.

Rowland was referring to the memo that CBS, the show's broadcaster, put out this week asking that participants make sure "buttocks and female breasts are adequately covered."

Rowland's Georges Chakra dress had portions that are see-through. (Mesfin Fekadu)

ADELE: NO TIME TO BE COOL

Adele says she's been so busy singing nursery rhymes to her new baby son that "I don't really remember what's cool and what's not."

Still, she was cool enough to add another Grammy to last year's six-award sweep when she won Sunday night for pop vocal performance for "Set Fire to the Rain (Live)."

That may have to hold her for a while.

She's set to perform her Golden Globe-winning song from the James Bond film "Skyfall" at the Oscars in a couple weeks, and says she's been so busy she's had little time to work on her new album.

"I'm not very far along at all," Adele confessed backstage at the Grammy Awards. "I've been out of the loop really." (Sandy Cohen)

GRAMMYS DON'T WAIT FOR ANYONE

The Grammy Awards show started at 8 p.m. EST. Not at 8:05 or 8:07 or 8:10

The late-arriving celebrity crowd quickly learned that fact when they were kept in a vestibule with all the regular folks until the first commercial break. Only then were they allowed to take their seats.

That meant Drake, Jenna Jameson and Tito Ortiz had to cool their heels while Taylor Swift opened the show with her exuberant performance of "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."

The waiting continued as host LL Cool J greeted the audience and on through Ed Sheeran and Elton John's performance.

The stars' handlers did manage to move them to the front of the line that was waiting to get in. (Nekesa Mumbi Moody)

TAYLOR SETS TWEETERS AT TWITTER

Did Taylor Swift just launch World War III?

After Swift broke into a faux British accent during her Grammy-opening performance, several One Direction fans took to Twitter to voice their disdain at the apparent dig at one of the singer's former flames, One Direction member (and native Brit) Harry Styles.

The English-accented flourish came when Swift started speaking in the middle of an "Alice in Wonderland"-like performance of her Grammy-nominated song "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."

Reaction was swift.

"Did Taylor Swift just do an English accent?" director Judd Apatow tweeted immediately after it happened. (Derrick J. Lang)

KIMBRA WAS THE CHARM

After Gotye's "Somebody That I Used to Know" won the Grammy for best pop duo/group performance, he revealed that Kimbra wasn't his first, or even his second, choice for the song.

He had already gone through two female singers for the track and was waiting on another vocalist when "she called out."

"I built so much expectation with that vocalist that I was feeling a little crushed," he said backstage after collecting the Grammy.

It came down to Kimbra to sing on the song that was recorded in her apartment. It was last year's biggest hit.

As for the unnamed singer,

Gotye said she makes wonderful music on her own and "shouldn't be mad."

Gotye also won the Grammy for best alternative music album for "Making Mirrors." (Mesfin Fekadu)

DRESSING ROOM MATES

Kelly Clarkson is in good company backstage at the Grammys.

The original "American Idol" champion, who's performing at Sunday's ceremony, posted a photo to Instagram of her dressing room door, which featured the names of her roommates: Alicia Keys and Miranda Lambert.

"Our dressing room rules!" wrote the "Stronger" singer.

Clarkson later uploaded photos of her glam squad curling her hair, as well as a close-up of her glittery custom nail polish.

"Should we call it 'Stronger'?" she asked. (Derrick J. Lang)

ESPERANZA SPALDING LEARNED LESSON WELL

Last year's best new artist, Esperanza Spalding, is back winning Grammys again this year—with a little help from the music teacher who began training her when she was 8.

The jazz star and her teacher, Thara Memory, claimed the award for best instrumental arrangements accompanying vocalist(s) for "City of Roses" at Sunday's Grammy pre-telecast.

Spalding escorted Memory to the stage to accept the award and was moved when speaking about their student-teacher relationship. She also noted the "City of Roses" composition features some of Memory's 16-year-old students.

Spalding also won a Grammy Sunday for best jazz vocal album for "Radio Music Society." (Mesfin Fekadu)



Taylor Swift performs on stage at the 55th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, in Los Angeles.

AP

'Argo' named best film at Britain's Oscars

LONDON (AP)—Iran-hostage drama "Argo" continued its journey from awards-season outsider to favorite Sunday, winning three prizes, including best-picture, at the British Academy Film Awards.

Ben Affleck was named best director for the based-on-reality

'Identity Thief' swipes No. 1 spot with \$36.6M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Identity Thief" has turned out to be the real thing at the North American box office.

The comedy starring Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy debuted at No. 1 with a \$36.6 million opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Identity Thief" opened solidly despite the winter storm that buried much of the U.S. Northeast. Distributor Universal Pictures estimates the storm might have choked off as much as 10 percent of the movie's business.

"It took such a chunk out of the business this weekend. But we can't control Mother Nature," said Nikki Rocco, Universal's head of distribution. "We probably could have hit \$40 million if it weren't for the weather this weekend."

The previous weekend's top movie, the zombie romance "Warm Bodies," fell to No. 2 with \$11.5 million. That raises its domestic total to \$36.7 million.

The weekend's other new wide release, Steven Soderbergh's thriller "Side Effects," had a modest opening of \$10 million, coming in at No. 3.

Tom Cruise's 1986 hit "Top Gun" took flight again in theaters with a 3-D reissue that pulled in \$1.9 million in narrow release of 300 theaters. The movie has a short run on the big-screen leading up to its Feb. 19 3-D release on DVD and Blu-ray.

1. **"Identity Thief,"** \$36.6 million (\$230,000 international).
2. **"Warm Bodies,"** \$11.5 million.
3. **"Side Effects,"** \$10 million.
4. **"Silver Linings Playbook,"** \$6.9 million.
5. **"Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters,"** \$5.8 million (\$11.6 million international).
6. **"Mama,"** \$4.3 million (\$6.1 million international).
7. **"Zero Dark Thirty,"** \$4 million.
8. **"Argo,"** \$2.5 million.
9. **"Django Unchained,"** \$2.3 million.
10. **"Bullet to the Head,"** \$2 million.

story of a longshot plan to rescue a group of American diplomats from Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and the film also took the editing trophy.

Affleck, who has made a remarkable journey from little-regarded actor to award-winning director, dedicated his directing prize to "anyone out there who's trying to get their second act."

George Clooney, a producer of "Argo," quipped: "I don't know what you're going to do for a third act."

Daniel Day-Lewis won his universally expected best-actor trophy for "Lincoln"—the only prize out of 10 nominations for Steven Spielberg's historical biopic.

Day-Lewis—a famously intense actor who reportedly stayed in character as the 16th U.S. President throughout the "Lincoln" shoot—cracked a joke as he was given his prize.

He said that in anticipation of having to make an acceptance speech, "I've actually stayed in character as myself for the last 55 years."

Emmanuelle Riva, the 85-year-old French film legend, was named best actress for Michael Haneke's poignant old-age portrait "Amour." It also was named best foreign-language film.

Made-in-Britain French revolutionary musical "Les Misérables" won four prizes, including best supporting actress for Anne Hathaway. James Bond adventure "Skyfall" spied some elusive awards recognition, winning trophies for music and best British film.

The British awards, known as BAFTAs, are increasingly glamorous—despite a well-earned reputation for dismal weather—and ever-more scrupu-

lized as an indicator of likely success at the Hollywood Oscars. In recent years they have prefigured Academy Awards triumph for word-of-mouth hits such as "Slumdog Millionaire," "The King's Speech" and "The Artist."

This year they spread their honors widely, with multiple trophies for "Life of Pi," "Silver Linings Playbook," "Amour" and "Django Unchained," as well as "Argo."

Kathryn Bigelow's Osama bin Laden thriller "Zero Dark Thirty" was shut out of the prizes, despite five nominations.

This season's movie with momentum is crowd-pleaser "Argo," which has been building steam with big prizes at ceremonies such as the Golden Globes, the Producers Guild and the Directors Guild of America Awards.

It is now considered a frontrunner for the best picture award at the Oscars on Feb. 24, even though Affleck was not nominated for best director there.

"Argo" marks a change for Affleck, whose first two features as director—"Gone Baby Gone" and "The Town"—were set in his native Boston. In "Argo" he stars as Tony Mendez, a CIA agent who poses as a sci-fi filmmaker in a risky plot to rescue Americans in Tehran.

"I wanted to get as far away from Boston as I could," Affleck said. "I ended up in Iran."

"Skyfall," the highest-grossing film in the Bond series' 50-year history, was named best British film—rare awards-season recognition for an action movie. Thomas Newman's score also won the best-music prize.

Director Sam Mendes said he was accepting the trophy on behalf of the "1,292 people" who worked on "Skyfall."

"We all had high expectations for this film and it's fair to say all of them have been exceeded," Mendes said. "Here's to the next 50 years."

Quentin Tarantino picked up the original screenplay award for "Django Unchained," and Christoph Waltz was named best supporting actor for playing a loquacious bounty hunter in Tarantino's slave-revenge thriller.

Waltz said his victory was entirely due to Tarantino—"you silver-penned devil, you."

Tarantino also revealed that he plans another film that sets out to right an historical wrong, after anti-Nazi saga "Inglourious Basterds" and "Django Unchained."

"I think there is something about this that begs a trilogy," he said. "I don't know what the third one's going to be yet."

Hathaway said she was "overjoyed" at being named best supporting actress for her brief but powerhouse performance in "Les Misérables." She said she was so taken aback that "I almost walked past George Clooney without hugging him."

She also expressed sympathy for co-star Eddie Redmayne, who had been due to present an award but—co-presenter Sally Field informed the audience—was vomiting backstage.

"Feel better," Hathaway said. "I mean I'd be holding your hair back, but, you know..."

Writer-director David O. Russell won the adapted screenplay prize for "Silver Linings Playbook," a comedy about characters confronting mental illness.

"Les Mis" also took trophies for production design, sound and makeup/hair, and "Life of Pi" received honors for cinematography and visual effects.

Beyoncé covers Vogue's March issue



NEW YORK (AP)—Beyoncé calls the making of her upcoming HBO documentary "Life is But a Dream" a therapeutic process.

She tells the March issue of Vogue, "this movie healed me in so many ways" and thinking about it makes her "want to cry."

The film addresses topics that the notoriously private singer normally doesn't address in public. It chronicles her 2011 decision to no longer have her father Matthew Knowles as her manager, her miscarriage and even the rumors that she was faking her pregnancy with daughter Blue Ivy by really using a surrogate.

"That was very odd," says the singer.

"Life is But a Dream" airs Feb. 16 on HBO.

This magazine cover image released by Vogue shows singer Beyoncé on the March 2013 issue of the popular fashion magazine.

Boyfriend feels betrayed to learn of past abortion

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I just found out that my girlfriend of nearly four years had an abortion when she was in high school.

I overheard her during a conversation she was having with someone. I later asked her what was implied when the name of her ex-boyfriend from high school was brought up. She proceeded to tell me what had happened and then said, "I never told you that?" Obviously, she never mentioned it to me because I certainly would have remembered something of that magnitude.

My reaction is feelings of disgust, betrayal and of having been lied to. Am I overreacting or are my feelings warranted?

FEELS BETRAYED IN CONNECTICUT



Dear Abby

DEAR FEELS BETRAYED: That depends upon whether you ever had a conversation with your girlfriend about her sexual history during which you were supposed to tell each other "everything." If so, then the omission was deliberate. If not, she was under no obligation to reveal that she had terminated a pregnancy during high school.

Abortion is a deeply personal and often complex decision for women. Ultimately, I am told, most women feel a sense of relief after an abortion. However, many do not feel that it is something to celebrate and may not be comfortable sharing that they have had one.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband gives me gift cards for my birthday and special occasions, but with it comes, "I want to know everything you buy!" I tell him it's a gift and I shouldn't HAVE to tell him what I use it for. If I do tell him what I bought, he invariably says, "Did you really need that?"

It ruins the whole thing for me when I must reveal what I bought with the card. So who's right—he or I?

RELUCTANT RECIPIENT IN ALASKA

DEAR RELUCTANT RECIPIENT: You are, for the reason you stated. The object of a gift is to bring pleasure, and there are few comments your husband could make that would put a bigger damper on your purchase than, "Do you really need that?" The next time he asks what you bought, tell him, "None of your beeswax!"

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My stepmother was in a fatal car accident. She was very dear to me. A few days after the funeral, Dad told me the best way to handle grief is to clean house—so we began cleaning house like crazy, stopping to cry every now and then.

We ran out of towels, so I went to fetch more from the guest bathroom where they are kept. Seeing a penny on the sink, I grabbed it and threw it in the wastebasket. (I wondered where it had come from because I hadn't noticed it there earlier in the day.) Suddenly, I remembered the letters in your column from people saying if you find a penny after you have lost a loved one, it means they are sending you a message of love from heaven.

I quickly reached into the wastebasket to retrieve the penny, praying that it was newly minted—and it was! I showed it to Dad, explaining the significance, and we both had a good cry. We keep it in my stepmother's china cabinet to remind us that love is eternal.

To us, that penny is priceless. Thank you for running those "pennies from heaven" stories.

READER IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR READER: You're welcome. To me your EXPERIENCE is priceless.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby*, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



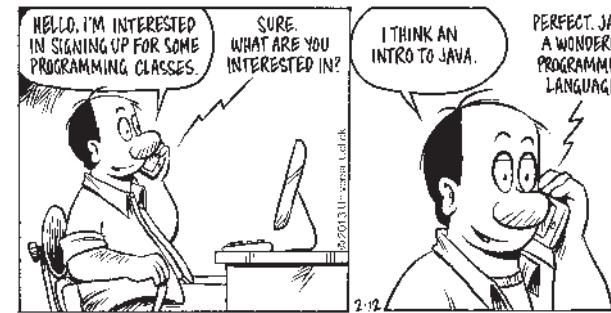
By Bill Waterson

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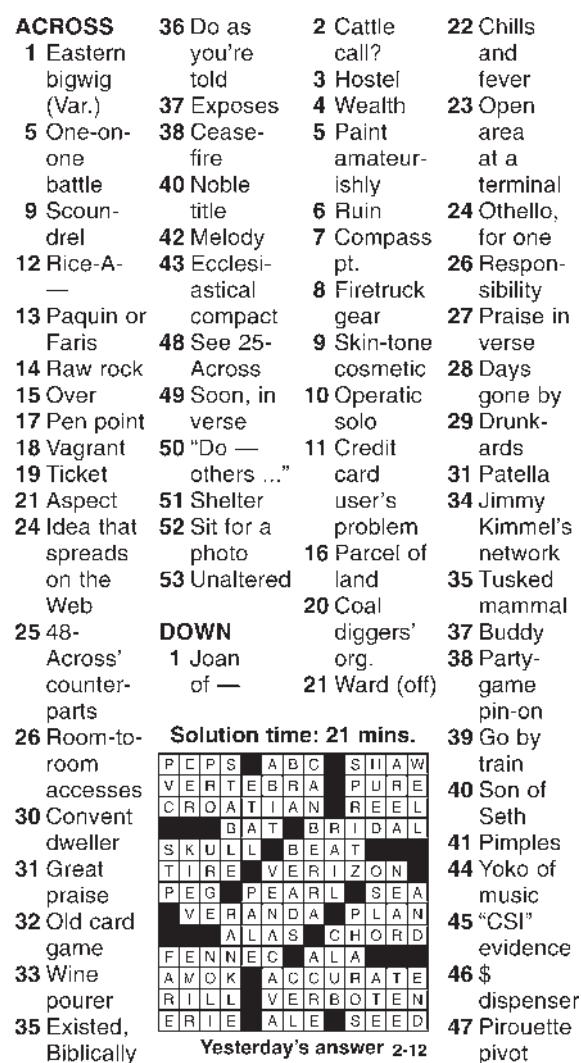
The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer



Yesterday's answer 2-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Posner, 25; Christina Ricci, 33; Darren Aronofsky, 44; Josh Brolin, 45

Happy Birthday: Improve your living arrangements or make a move. Attempts to make your life better will pay off. Use discipline and you will reach your goals. Educational pursuits or having more to do with youngsters will lead to greater happiness. Protect your health and incorporate unique ideas into everything you do. Progressive action will bring good results. Your numbers are 4, 13, 16, 23, 30, 37, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone interesting who can offer you good advice or an opportunity will come into your life if you volunteer or use your talents to help others. A serious union will help you explore new possibilities. Your past experience will pay off. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share information and you will come up with something that works. You will make new allies and bring about a collaboration with people who share your concerns, values and solutions. Discipline coupled with action will pay off. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Too much of anything will turn into a bad experience. You have to gauge your time and your input so that you aren't taken advantage of or treated wrongly. Focus on what you know you can accomplish, not what others want you to do. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A steady pace will ensure that you make headway. Put a little muscle behind whatever you set out to do. Strength, courage and originality will be

what lead to your success. A serious relationship must be nurtured. Impulse is the enemy. **★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Visit unfamiliar places and interact with people who come from different walks of life and you will gather interesting information that will enable you to let go of the past and move full speed into the future. Love is in the stars. **★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't judge others or jump to conclusions without having all the facts. Take your time, listen and show compassion. Communicating openly will help you decide what to do next. Don't allow someone's demands to ruin your plans. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Revisit old ideas and do what you can to spice things up. This time you will get a far better reaction if you let your imagination wander and your creativity flow. Don't worry about others. Put your needs first and foremost. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put more time and effort into creative endeavors. Not everyone will appreciate what you do, but the ones who do will also offer contributions that will help you develop something unique and serviceable with potential to be profitable as well. **★★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen, but hold your response until it's appropriate. You will face trouble, opposition and challenges if you are too outspoken or pushy about what you want to see happen. Stick close to home and prepare what you want to do next. **★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll need to show compassion if you want others to help in return. Someone will have a change of heart or make last-minute changes, but you mustn't let this deter you from following through with your plans. Use your imagination. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on the positive and look at what you can gain by attending a lecture or talking to someone with experience in a field that interests you. You'll come across an opportunity that can result in a new beginning. Embrace change. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stabilize your situation, taking control and making things happen. It's up to you to enforce what you want and to follow through. You have great ideas and the drive to excel. Don't let a personal contract interfere with your plans. **★★★**

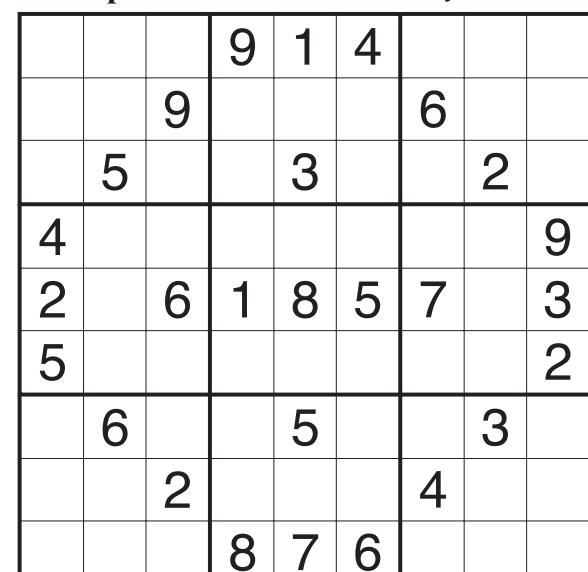
Birthday Baby: You are emotionally driven. You welcome change and thrive on individuality.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

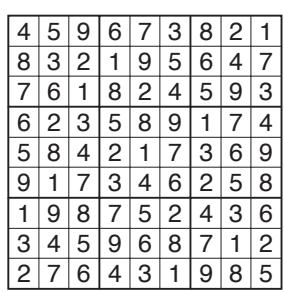
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ON CLOUD NINE



Solution: 5 letters

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Awaken, Birth, Bright, Care, Cheer, Dreamy, Easy, Euphoric, Feeling, Fete, Flying, Free, Frisky, Gaiety, Gift, Gleeful, Good, Great, Grins, Grooving, Happily, Happiness, Happy, Heal, Hearty, Joyful, Joyous, Keen, Kite, Laughter, Lush, Merry, Misty, Moral, Optimistic, Overjoyed, Perky, Pleased, Sensors, Smile, Spell, Star, Sunny, Thrilling, Tickle, Timing, Treasure, Winsome
Yesterday's Answer: Eyes

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0101
-v-	
AMALIA DIAZ TERESEGOY, aka DEBRA AMALIA DIAZ TERESEGOY; VINCENTE TILPAO TERESEGOY; and JOSE DLG. DIAZ, Defendants.	FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 12, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 041 E 18 (formerly part of Lot 041 E 06, which was part of original lot 041 E 01), situated in Talofofo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,050 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 041 E 03, the original of which was recorded 14 February 1995, as Document No. 95-356, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

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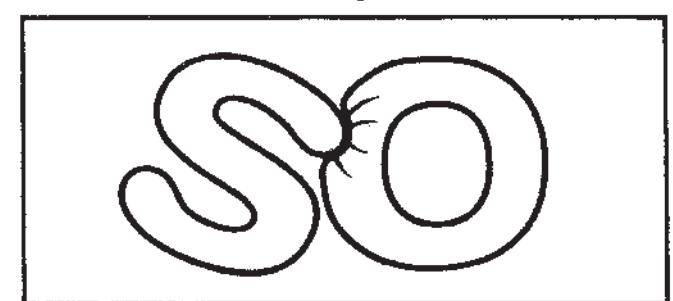
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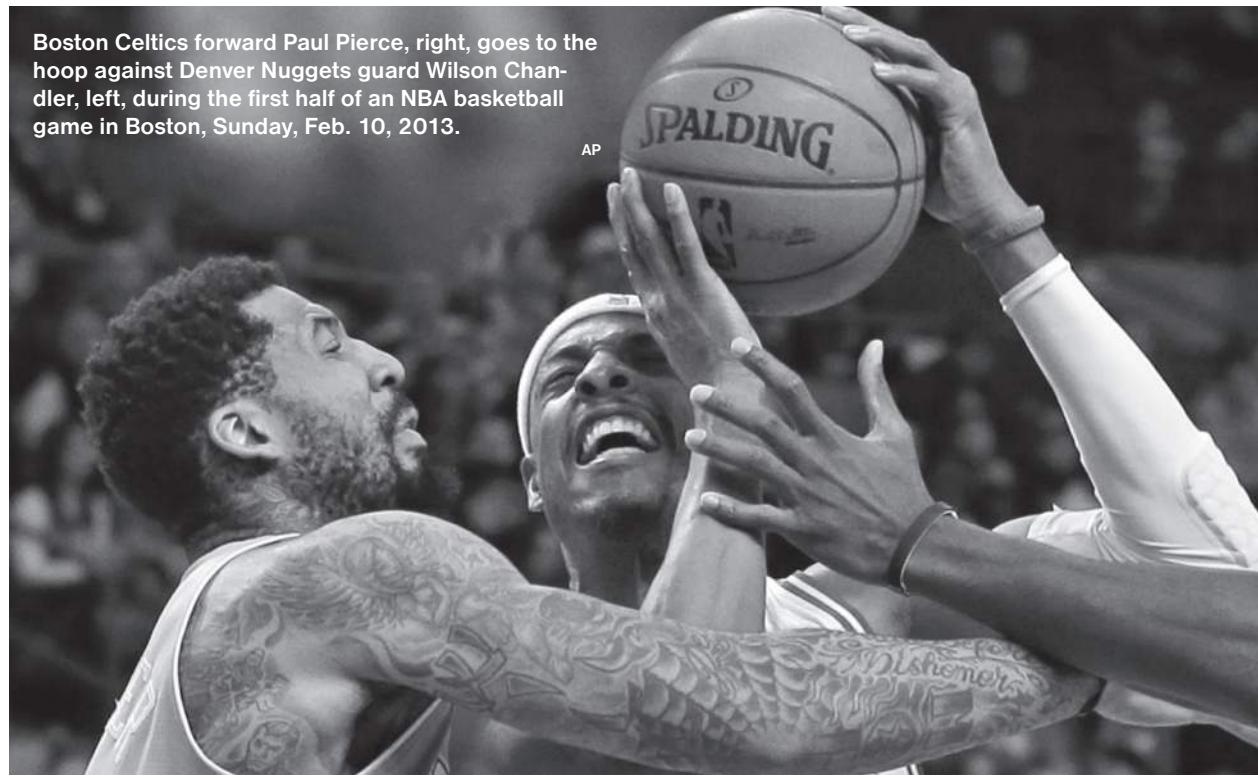


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Celtics outlast Nuggets in three overtimes

Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce, right, goes to the hoop against Denver Nuggets guard Wilson Chandler, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013.

AP



BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics relied on their veterans to help them win the matchup of the NBA's two hottest teams.

Paul Pierce had 27 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists and the Celtics extended their winning streak to seven games with a 118-114 triple overtime victory over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday.

Boston's win also ended Denver's winning streak at nine games.

Pierce made a tying 3-pointer in the second overtime to make it 107-107 and extend the game.

"I mean that's what great players do. I would love to tell you I had something to do with it," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "I was sitting just like the fans saying, 'Please, Lord, Paul make a shot.'"

Kevin Garnett had 20 points and grabbed 18 rebounds while Jason Terry scored a season-high 26 points off the bench.

"It seems like Garnett has a huge heart and wanted to win the game and he made some big time shots," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "His range has improved and it's about time he get that respect."

Pierce, Garnett and Terry are the only active Celtics with championship rings since point guard Rajon Rondo's season-ending knee injury. The Celtics remain unbeaten in Rondo's absence.

Terry hit a 3-pointer with 1:33 remaining in the third overtime to put the Celtics ahead 116-113.

Danilo Gallinari, who finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, hit a free throw, but Denver would not get any closer.

"Hard to believe these guys don't have an all-star," Garnett said. "That baffles me ... Gallinari, Lawson ... they have deserving guys."

Terry, who had missed five consecutive 3-point shots in the first two overtimes, also made the defensive play of the game when he stole the ball from Andre Miller with 35 seconds remaining.

Denver had one last gasp as Miller missed a 3-pointer with 4.9 seconds remaining before Terry dribbled the ball up the court and made a layup at the buzzer to finish the scoring.

"We're not into moral victories, but it was one of those games," Miller said. "It was a fun game and I'm sure everybody was tired."

Denver's Ty Lawson had 29 points,

nine assists and six rebounds and hit several key shots, including a running bank shot to send the game into overtime tied at 92-92.

Gallinari struggled from the field as he shot 7 of 20 for the Nuggets. Kenneth Faried had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Denver.

Garnett was 3 of 4 from the field in overtime after missing 14 of his previous 20 shots.

With Denver leading 105-104 in the second overtime, Lawson hit another jumper to put the Nuggets up 107-104 with 18.9 seconds remaining.

But Pierce hit a 3-pointer with Miller in his face with 5 seconds left to tie the game at 107-107.

Gallinari then had an open lane to the basket as he was overplayed by Garnett, but missed his shot as time ran out.

Jeff Green's 3-pointer tied the game at 99-99 with 23.8 seconds remaining in the first overtime, but Lawson's long 3-pointer fell short at the buzzer.

"Lot of people still doubt us," Green said. "Can't come into games thinking we have to impress people."

Denver failed to hit its last shot in all three overtimes with chances to win the game in the first two and to tie it in the third.

Green's jumper put Boston ahead 92-90 with 47.9 seconds remaining in regulation. Miller then missed consecutive shots on the ensuing Denver possessions, but Faried was fouled with 5.4 seconds remaining.

Faried missed both free throws, but Celtics guard Avery Bradley knocked the ball out of bounds. Lawson then scored with 0.8 seconds remaining.

Gallinari, who averages 20 points per game to lead Denver, was held to three points in the first half on 1-of-6 shooting as the Nuggets trailed 50-46 at the break.

Heat 107, Lakers 97

In Miami, LeBron James scored 32 points on 12-for-18 shooting, Dwyane Wade scored 30 and the Miami Heat beat the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday for their fifth straight win.

It was James' fifth straight game with at least 30 points, a franchise record. He's shot better than 60 percent in all five of those games.

Mario Chalmers scored 13 and Chris Bosh finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat.

Spurs 111, Nets 86

In Brooklyn, NY, Tony Parker had 29 points and 11 assists in another brilliant performance without his two sidekicks, and San Antonio dominated the second half to beat Brooklyn.

Two nights after a loss in Detroit ended their 11-game winning streak, the Spurs got back on track quickly behind Parker, who fell short of his third straight 30-point game only because he was so good he sat out the final minutes of the rout.

Thunder 97, Suns 69

In Phoenix, Thabo Sefolosha made a career-high 5 3-pointers and Oklahoma City routed Phoenix for the second game in a row.

The 28-point blowout followed a 127-96 romp over the Suns in Oklahoma City on Friday night.

Clippers 102, Knicks 88

In New York, Chris Paul scored 25 points in his second game back from injury and reserve Jamal Crawford had 27 to lead Los Angeles over New York.

Magic 110, Blazers 104

In Orlando, Fla., J.J. Redick scored 22 points, Nikola Vucevic added 17 points and 19 rebounds, and Orlando snapped a 12-game losing streak with a win over Portland.

The Magic shot 50 percent from the field in earning their first win since Jan. 16. They play their next two games at home. Reserve Gustavo Ayon had 16 points and 11 rebounds for Orlando.

Grizzlies 105, Timberwolves 88

In Memphis, Tenn., Tayshaun Prince scored 18 points, hitting all eight of his shots from the field, and Memphis pulled away in the second quarter before coasting to a win over Minnesota.

Raptors 102, Hornets 89

In Toronto, John Lucas scored 10 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter to match his season high and Rudy Gay had 20 points to lead Toronto over New Orleans.

Kings 117, Rockets 111

In Sacramento, Calif., Isaiah Thomas scored 17 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and John Salmons also had 23 points to help rally Sacramento to a win over Houston.

Williams apologizes for Saints' bounty scandal

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

(AP)—Gregg Williams knows he's got to prove himself every day.

The former Saints defensive coordinator said he received a "great rebirth" Thursday when he was reinstated by the NFL and hired by the Tennessee Titans after serving a nearly yearlong suspension for his role in the New Orleans bounty scandal.

But now that he's back in the league, he'll have to change the way he's done things in the past.

"I've got a very positive outlook on things," Williams said. "I understand and respect the game an awful lot, and the past is the past and what I'm talking about doing right now is creating a resume from this day forward."

Williams took the first step when the Titans hired him as a senior assistant coach for defense. Williams thanked Commissioner Roger Goodell for reinstating him while speaking at a news conference.

"I take full responsibility and apologize for my previous actions, and I've used this year to reorganize my life and put focus on positive energy and positive ways to inspire and coach and motivate in this profession," Williams said, reading from a statement.

"I'm grateful for this opportunity."

The league issued a statement saying that Goodell cited several reasons for reinstating Williams, including Williams accepting responsibility for his role in the bounty program, his commitment to never be involved in any pay for performance system and pledging to teach safe play and respect for the rules.

"The commissioner emphasized that Williams must fully conform to league rules and will be subject to periodic monitoring to confirm his compliance," the NFL said in its statement.

While he was out of football in 2012, Williams started his path back.

He said he spoke to football players from the Pop Warner level up to high school over the past year. He also worked with his charity, traveled and tried to improve himself including losing about "a kindergartener" when challenged by his sons to lose weight.

Williams, suspended indefinitely last March, now is the last person involved in the scandal to be reinstated by league. New Orleans coach Sean Payton had his suspension lifted on Jan. 22.

Saints general manager Mickey Loomis was suspended for eight games and assistant head coach Joe Vitt for six. Four current or former Saints players were also suspended after an investigation found the club had a performance pool offering cash rewards for key plays, including big hits. The player suspensions eventually were overturned.

Williams coached for the Saints between 2009 and 2011 and was hired as defensive coordinator by the St. Louis Rams in January 2012 before being suspended. Williams had been free to look for a new job in the NFL since the playoffs started, and now he is returning to the team where he got his start in the league back in 1990 as

a quality control assistant.

Titans coach Mike Munchak said he spent the past month trying to figure out how to improve his coaching staff and a defense that set a franchise record giving up 471 points. He immediately thought about Williams, so Munchak said he called Goodell for a long talk to learn about the bounty situation and Williams' status.

Munchak said hiring Williams on a one-year contract was "the right thing to do."

"What better place for him to come back to for a second opportunity after making some mistakes and to recharge his career going forward," Munchak said.

"He knows we're going to do things the right way. He knows how we do things. I think he knows changes have to be done maybe in some of the ways he's done things in the past. I think we're on the same page. I think we're excited about the opportunity."

Still, this is the NFL, and Williams said an aggressive approach on defense is what people get when he gets a chance to help.

"It's been my thought process as a player, as a coach, in all the years I've been doing this is that I'd rather be aggressive than passive," Williams said. "And sometimes the fastest approach to getting a job done is being more aggressive, and that can be a style of defense, scheme of defense, attitude of defense. ... I feel like that will always be a huge tenet of the National Football League."

How well this move works for both the Titans and Williams remains to be seen.

The Titans missed the playoffs in Munchak's first season on a tiebreaker in 2011 before slumping to a 6-10 record in 2012. Fans have not been happy that Munchak has kept Jerry Gray as coordinator after a season when Tennessee also gave up at least 30 points in seven different games and ranked 27th in yards allowed.

Munchak previously made only one move on his defensive staff, firing linebackers coach Frank Bush and moving Chet Parlavacchio from assisting with special teams to linebackers coach.

"The bottom line guys is winning next year," Munchak said. "We know that."

Williams and Gray have worked together for years first in Tennessee, then Williams took Gray with him to Buffalo when hired as the Bills head coach in 2001 after four seasons as Tennessee's defensive coordinator under then-coach Jeff Fisher. They worked together in Washington between 2004-07 before Williams went to Jacksonville Jaguars in 2008 and then the Saints.

Gray said he told Munchak to bring Williams on in when asked for his opinion of a man who's like a brother. When pressed on who will make the defensive calls in games this season, Gray pointed questions to Munchak who said Gray is the coordinator making the calls "right now."

Snedeker on the rise with Pebble win



PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) —

Everything about Brandt Snedeker moves at warp speed, including his rapid rise into golf's elite.

He talks so fast that he always seems to be a few words short of a complete sentence. He plays fast, giving his hips a quick swivel to set his position before pulling the trigger. Even his putts go into the hole quickly, most of them struck with purpose instead of hope.

But when he reached the 18th tee box at Pebble Beach, he had to wait for the fairway to clear before taking a victory stroll up one of the prettiest closing holes in golf.

And that was OK with him.

"There's not much better place to be on the planet with a three-shot lead on that tee box," Snedeker said Sunday. "It felt pretty special there."

Indeed, Snedeker is in a special place.

With his 10th consecutive round in the 60s, Snedeker finally had a trophy to show for his astounding start to the 2013 season. He knew the opening seven holes were critical, and he made an eagle and three birdies to build a quick lead. He realized a late birdie would give him a cushion, and he fired at the flag on the par-3 17th to 10 feet below the cup and holed the putt. He closed with a 7-under 65 for a two-shot win over Chris Kirk in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

It was the fifth win of his career, and his fourth in the last 22 months. But it's the last six months that have really turned heads.

He captured the \$10 million FedEx Cup prize with a win at the Tour Championship, where he held off the likes of Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods and Luke Donald going into the final round. He played in his first

Ryder Cup. He started this year with a third-place at Kapalua, and runner-up finishes in consecutive weeks to Woods and Phil Mickelson, both of whom had big leads going into the final round.

Go back to the start of the FedEx Cup playoffs last August and Snedeker now has six top 3s in his last nine starts. Since missing the cut at the PGA Championship, he has broken par in 33 out of 37 rounds. No wonder he now is No. 4 in the world, the best ranking of his career.

"Just hard to put into words, to have a stretch of golf like I had the last couple of months," Snedeker said. "Something you dream about. Something you think that you can do, but you don't really know until you actually put it together. And I have."

"I'm really enjoying this, and hopefully can parlay this into the best year of my career."

Snedeker set the tournament record at 19-under 267, one shot better than Mickelson (2007) and Mark O'Meara (1997), who each had a 20-under 268 when Poppy Hills (par 72) was part of the rotation. It has been replaced by Monterey Peninsula, which is a par 70.

Chris Kirk closed with a 66 to finish alone in second, though he was never closer than two shots of the lead on the back nine and finished with a birdie. Kirk finished on 269, a score that would have been good enough to win all but four times at Pebble Beach since this tournament began in 1937.

"We've had a lot of tournaments like that on tour this year where somebody has really just kind of blitzed the field," Kirk said. "I felt like I played well enough to win a golf tournament and came up a little bit short."

Snedeker could have said the same thing—except for Woods at Torrey Pines, and Mickelson going obscenely low to win the Phoenix Open.

He wasn't about to take a back



AP

Brandt Snedeker poses for photographers and kisses his trophy on the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament Sunday Feb. 10, 2013, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

seat to anyone at Pebble Beach.

Snedeker started the final round tied with James Hahn, a 31-year-old rookie from the Bay Area, with Kirk one shot behind. He set the tone early with a 4-iron into the par-5 second hole that was on the edge of the left green. It hit the collar and kicked slightly to the right, roll-

ing toward the pin until it settled 4 feet behind the cup.

"Kind of lucky, but it was a good shot, and to end up where it did was a great way to start the day," he said.

Hahn hit his approach high and pure, and it nearly hit Snedeker's ball before stopping 6 feet away. Hahn missed. Snedeker made. It

was like that over the front nine.

Snedeker started to pull away with a 3-wood that came off the edge of the green, ran by the cup and stopped 20 feet away for a two-putt birdie. Then, he holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the seventh and was on his way.

Most impressive about Snedeker this week was bouncing



STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Joe Paterno's family released its response to Penn State's report on the Jerry Sandusky scandal Sunday, attacking Louis Freeh's conclusion that the coach hid sex abuse allegations against his longtime assistant.

In a report commissioned by the family, former U.S. Attorney General and Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh said the investigation by former FBI director Freeh resulted in a "rush to injustice." That report, authorized by the university, found that Paterno and three former administrators covered up child sexual abuse allegations against former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

Those findings last July were unsupported by the facts, said the family critique released.

"The lack of factual report for the ... inaccurate and un-

founded findings related to Mr. Paterno, and its numerous process-oriented deficiencies, was a rush to injustice and calls into question the credibility of the entire Report," Thornburgh was quoted as saying in the family's analysis, posted on the website paterno.com.

Months in the making, the report was billed as an independent analysis of the work by Freeh, who defended his report Sunday.

"I stand by our conclusion that four of the most powerful people at Penn State failed to protect against a child sexual predator harming children for over a decade," he said in a statement issued through a spokesman.

Freeh's findings also implicated former administrators in

Paterno in the Freeh report was unfounded, and were a disservice to Paterno, the university community and Sandusky's victims "and the critical mission of educating the public on the dangers of child sexual victimization."

The central claim that Paterno "was engaged in a conspiracy ... there's simply no basis anywhere in the report for that finding. That in my view renders the whole report of very little value," Thornburgh said in an interview with The Associated Press. "There's simply nothing in this record, in the Freeh report, that indicates he was involved in any way."

Freeh's findings also implicated former administrators in

wrote in releasing the report.

The former administrators have vehemently denied the allegations. So, too, has Paterno's family, though a detailed counter-offensive began in earnest this weekend.

The family's findings said that Paterno never asked or told anyone not to investigate or report an allegation made against Sandusky 12 years ago, Saturday, Feb. 9, 2001.

Paterno also never asked or told anyone not to discuss or hide information reported by graduate assistant Mike McQueary about the 2001 allegation, the critique said, and followed university protocol in reporting information to superiors and left it to them to "to investigate and report as appropriate."

back from bogey. He made five bogeys for the entire week, and four times made birdie on the next hole. On Sunday, his lone mistake was knocking an 18-foot birdie off the green and three-putting for bogey at No. 9.

The answer, like everything else about him, was fast and furious.

He knocked in a 25-foot birdie putt on the 10th, and then holed from 15 feet for birdie on the 12th. Right when it looked as though he would make another bogey on the par-3 12th, he made par from just short of 10 feet.

There's a reason Snedeker led the PGA Tour in putting last year, though it's his driving that has vastly improved. Snedeker studied some statistics last year that showed his odds of hitting the green go way up when he starts in the fairway. And once he's on the green, he's tough to beat.

Hahn, who shot 70 and tied for third, was looking forward to learning something from his debut in the final group, and he saw Snedeker put on a clinic.

"I learned that he is a better guy than he is a golfer. The dude is world class," Hahn said. "He's obviously one of the best, if not the best golfer right now, and possibly for the last year. But how he conducts himself as a person on and off the golf course, that's also world class. He deserved to win today. ... I'm sure if you ask him, it was never a doubt that he was going to win the golf tournament."

Snedeker concurred.

"I definitely didn't want to do anything but win today," he said. "I was out there for one purpose and one purpose only, and I was extremely focused all day. I did a great job of staying patient and I did a great job of playing the golf course the way you're supposed to play it."

And the outcome was just what he expected. The way he has been playing, it shouldn't have been any surprise to anyone.

Thornburgh said he found the report at points to be inaccurate, speculative and fundamentally flawed about the role—if any—played by Paterno.

Appearing on ESPN's "Outside the Lines" program Sunday, Paterno family attorney Wick Sollers said it was too early to talk about legal action, though they were "evaluating all the legal options at this stage of the game."

Paterno's widow, Sue Paterno wrote in a letter Friday to former players that she sought a "full record of what happened."

The treatment of Paterno—fired over a late-night telephone call—as well as the handling of the Freeh report and the resulting NCAA sanctions by university leadership remain sensitive topics with some unhappy groups of alumni, ex-players and community residents.

Bandits send top-ranked SA Pit Bulls packing

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 The Bandits hijacked top-ranked San Antonio Pit Bulls, 77-74, in Saturday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League playoff match at Garapan Basketball Court.

Other teams moving on include Docomo Pacific, Cargo Express, and Yuman Construction.

Docomo eliminated Team Capalad, 77-74, in Saturday's nightcap, while Cargo ousted Yuichiro Electronic, 79-55, and Yuman Construction advanced past Hibiscus, 69-52, back on Feb. 3.

The Bandits are on quite a tear after also booting out Maplas Ka'Money, 86-83, last Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Pit Bulls' Nevin Salem started off strong in the opening period of Saturday's opener and tallied 10 points that went with a pair of 3-pointers for an early, 24-13, margin.

The Bandits fared better on both ends after its first line change as the group rebounded and trimmed its deficit to 31-37 at the half.

The Pit Bulls were held to 13 points after bursting out of their kennels and were stood up again in the third quarter when the Bandits made their move.

Jomar Tumaquip broke loose for 9 points supported by 7 from Gil Gapor and a couple of treys that jolted the Bandits ahead, 56-50, heading into crunch time.

The Bandits made its rivals settle for 7 free throws on four trips in the period.

SWIMMERS

From Page 28

Tammy was selected for the coveted plum for resetting four CNMI age group record in the 9 to 10 division during the NMISF Swim Meet held early last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The 10-year-old Tsunami Saipan swimmer first set a new age group mark in the 50m butterfly when she clocked in at 33.16 seconds, more than two seconds faster than her previous mark of 35.61 posted on May 26, 2012 during the 2012 Guam Championships in Hagatna.

Tammy's second record came in the 400m freestyle race where



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Bandits' Rodney Sacramento slashes through the lane against Team Capalad during their Blue Haus caging playoff matchup last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Both teams had plenty in the tank for a lively fourth quarter that could have went either way.

Pitbulls made the right move in putting Bandits' Jun Pineda on the line in the final moments, but Pineda was up for the challenge and secured the big upset win.

In the late match, Docomo nosed in front, 16-14, in the first canto thanks to a pair of late three-balls. The former maintained a slim 40-37 edge at half-time as Roy Hernandez and Marlon Sison heated up in the second quarter with 7 points apiece.

Leo Galarse led the Capalad crew with a 10-point string in the first period and teammate Pando Muleta drained two threes for 14 points to keep the group in contention in the mid-point of the game.

Still, Docomo seemed to al-

ways have an answer and continued to hold the advantage, 60-57, heading into the final stanza.

Capalad's Galarse and Donovan Brennan teamed up for 14 points in the third quarter, however Sison and Zhe Chen thwarted the impact on Docomo's end.

Docomo then did a good job keeping a lid on Capalad's elusive Galarse and held him to just a handful of checks in the clutch.

Jhun Pantaleon tried to step up for the shorthanded Capalad band, but his 10 points came up a trey short of forcing overtime. Sison finished with a team-high 18 points, while Galarse led the field with 23 in the loss.

Results of Sunday's and last night's matches are forthcoming and according to the latest schedule games are set to take place tomorrow night in Gara-

represented the CNMI in the 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival held at the Aquatics Centre of the Sydney Olympic Park from Jan. 16 to 20.

Kimura submitted 2:19.12 in the 200m backstroke race in the Youth Olympic Festival to set a new CNMI national record and age group mark. His time in Sydney eclipsed the 10-year record of Saipan Swim Club's Seung Gin Lee, who logged 2:19.89 in the same event on July 25, 2003. Kimura's time also shattered the previous 15 to 16 age group record of 2:20.05, which he incidentally posted on Dec. 3, 2011.

Besides 200m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 200m individual medley, and

pan at 6:30pm and 8pm.

First Game

Bandits 77 – Gapor 21, Tumaquip 18, Mc. Achas 17, Pineda 8, Mi. Achas 7, Salazar 3, Odicita 2, Sincia 1.

SA Pit Bulls 74 – Salem 21, Cadiang 15, Aranda 10, Palacios 10, Alegre 9, Deguzman 7, Villanueva 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-24, 31-37, 56-50, 77-74.

Second Game

Docomo Pacific 77 – Sison 18, Metran 16, Hernandez 12, Chen 9, Cruz 6, Suarez 5, Montes 5, Sacramento 2.

Team Capalad 74 – Galarse 23, Muleta 18, Pantaleon 16, Brennan 12, Diyo 2, Siriban 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-14, 40-38, 60-57, 77-74.

50m freestyle and had respectable times in these events.

Less than a week after competing in Australia, Kimura joined the 8th SSC Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim held in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club. He participated in the longest race of the event, the five-lap, 3,875m Mighty course, and bested seven other swimmers. Kimura timed in at 54:21 to prevail against Tsunami Saipan teammates Takumi Sugie (57:05) and Kaito Yanai (57:06) and Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova (59:41), Kento Akimaru (1:00:15), Jeff El-Hajj (1:00:16), Ed Ewing (1:00:17), and Carol Lynn Pierce (1:13:55).

I remember watching some of the local boys scrap it out and have been hooked ever since. MMA is so intriguing and I almost can't believe I'm living it," he said.

His parents were not exactly big fans of him getting into competitive fighting at first, but Barcenas-Hocog is happy with the path he chose and is enjoying himself in Alaska where he feels blessed with many opportunities.

Though humbled in defeat, Hocog is still in the green and now holds a fight record of three wins with two losses. He is also celebrating his 24th birthday on Feb. 15.

The Pacific Stars' guard was on target all night, hitting 6 triples and making shots from

7 PAIRS

From Page 28

Luther Lizama, Merle Hudkins and Julia Ishikawa, and Kinumi Tamiguchi and Michael Ren.

Sakano and Heras are at the top half of the 32-team draw and won their opening game against Dong Min Lee and Jammin Elliot last Saturday, 6-1, 6-3. Then last Sunday, the top-ranked pair eliminated Mimi Castro and Carol Lee, 6-4, 6-4. Lee and Castro marched into the second round after shutting out Mei Demapan and Mimi Sakan, 6-0, 6-0.

Next up for Sakano and Heras will be the duo of Ramsey and Goodwin, who also went 2-0 in Week 1. Goodwin and Ramsey first survived Eric Abragan and Haruya Eda last Saturday, 7-5, 5-7, 10-7, and then endured another three-set match versus Brent Nelson and Ami Tsukagoshi, 6-3, 2-6, 10-6.

The tandem of Park and Tudela had easier wins at the top half of the bracket, sweeping Sakiko Eda and Mondo Taniguchi, 6-3, 6-1, and Dylan Ackerman and Catherine Atalig, 6-2, 6-1. Before the second round loss, Atalig and Ackerman first prevailed over Zena Demapan and Conatsu Kaga, 6-3, 6-1.

Park and Tudela will battle fellow junior players Colin Ramsey and Luther Lizama in the second quarterfinals game at the top half of the draw this weekend. Lizama and Ramsey barged into the Round of 8 after ousting Robbie Schorr and Steve Nutting, 6-1, 6-2, and

Rafael Jones and Coume Kaga, 7-5, 6-4.

In the lower half of the second, the second-seeded pair of Choi and Emily Jones also swept two teams, beating Negahr Rastguy and Ruth Park first last Saturday, 6-2, 6-2, before downing Seiya Eda and Grace Choi, 6-0, 6-3.

Tommy Choi and Emily Jones' quarterfinals foes will be the winner in the second round match between Raj Rai and Tony Atalig and Tim Goodwin and Michael Jones. An 8-6, 6-4 victory over Angelo Jones and Ericka Tuttle moved Rai and Atalig to the second round, while Tim Goodwin and Michael Jones followed suit after eliminating Jim Tuttle and Kevin Kim, 6-4, 6-2.

In the other quarterfinal pairing at the lower half of the draw, it will be Hudkins and Ishikawa versus Taniguchi and Ren. Hudkins and Ishikawa nailed a two-set win over Alina Ishikawa and Joshua Abragan in the first round, 6-4, 7-5, and then slipped past Theecel Minor and Tania Tan, 2-6, 6-3, 10-6, to march into the Round of 8.

Taniguchi and Ren, which blanked Thea Minor and Mimi Sato in the opening round, 6-0, 6-0, also eked out a three-set victory in the second round against Melody Johnson and Ken Song, 5-7, 6-1, 10-7, to earn a quarterfinals slot.

The quarterfinals and semis matches will be played this weekend, while the championship games in the mixed-up doubles, men's open singles, and junior singles are scheduled for the following Monday.

SUSUPE

From Page 28

final canto.

Susupe also slowed down on offense in the fourth, but still saved the win after building enough cushion in the third and making four free throws in the homestretch. Lansang knocked in a pair of charities, while Buniag and J.R. Mina made one charity each.

Lansang went on to pace Susupe with his 25 points, while Banatasa and J.R. Cadag finished in twin digits too, with 10 markers apiece.

The ICS Shooters lead on the 20 markers of Guntar, who was the lone double figure scorer on the team.

DIVISION A

Pacific Stars 81, Docomo 74

Meanwhile, after more than two weeks of break, action in Division A resumed last Saturday and scoring machine Jun Estolas showed no signs of rust despite the long lull.

Estolas sizzled for 38 big points to lift Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai to the 7-point win over Docomo. Pacific Stars gained its second straight win after a 0-3 start in Division A, which halted its games to give way to another league, while Docomo fell to a 2-3 slate.

The Pacific Stars' guard was on target all night, hitting 6 triples and making shots from

FRIDAY

Susupe 68 – Lansang 25, Banatasa 10, Cadag 10, Miguel 6, Llagas 6, Mina 5, Diyo 4, Buniag 1.

ICS Shooters 61 – Guntar 20, Tala 9, Espinosa 7, Mallari 6, David 5, Enriquez 4, Corotan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-16, 30-30, 54-43, 68-61.

SATURDAY

Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai 81 – Estolas 38, Diaz 12, Babauta 12, Tenorio 10, Lauron 4, Galzote 2.

Docomo Pacific 74 – Barbo 32, Mangali 16, Sablan 8, Sison 6, Tudela 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 30-39, 58-48, 81-74.

2013 Saipan Little League Opening Ceremony

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Participating Little League teams stand at attention during the singing of the CNMI and U.S. national anthems in last Saturday's opening ceremony of the 2013 Saipan Little League season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Little League Baseball International CNMI district administrator Mike Borja made the closing remarks, while master of ceremony Bob Colden looks on.



The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion served as the opening ceremony's color guard.



Saipan Little League president Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan) welcomes the crowd with some opening remarks.



CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C Sablan and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs deputy secretary Rhonda Fleming-Nogis read the Little League parents/volunteer pledge.



Several Little Leaguers read the player's pledge.



Saipan Little League vice president and Senate Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) tries his hand at hitting.



CNMI Hall of Famer and Rep. Anthony Benavente (IR-Saipan) tosses the ball from the mound.



**Celtics outlast
Nuggets in three
overtimes**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Snedeker on
the rise with
Pebble win**

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28 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

7 pairs advance in White Coconut Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven pairs gained quarterfinal berths in the mixed-up doubles event in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic after notching two wins apiece over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Top 2 seeds Amami Sakano and Isabel Heras and Tommy Choi and Emily Jones led the quarterfinals cast and are joined by Gary Ramsey and Steven Goodwin, Daniel Park and Vincent Tudela, Colin Ramsey and

**See 7 PAIRS on
Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kinumi Taniguchi, left, hits a volley, while teammate Michael Ren looks on during their second round game against Melody Johnson and Ken Song in the mixed-up doubles division of the 2013 White Coconut Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

MMA fighter from Rota falls short in Alaska bout

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

**ATHLETES
ABROAD** Peter "PK-Da Island Boi" Barcinas-Hocog lost his mixed martial arts bout in Rock Fighting Championship 2 held last Feb. 1 at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Barcinas-Hocog, who originally is from Rota, was defeated by Paul Hougaard of Gracie Barra-Anchorage in their 165-lb match. He succumbed to Hougaard in the first round via referee stoppage due to strikes.

Barcinas-Hocog said he is
See MMA on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Rota resident Peter "PK-Da Island Boi" Barcinas-Hocog, right, lost his mixed martial bout in Alaska earlier this month.

Swimmers named January's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

**ATHLETES
of the
MONTH** Tsunamami Saipan Swimming Center's Miku Tammy and Kensuke Kimura bagged the NMASA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Month award for January after their record-breaking performance in separate competitions at the start of the 2013 season.

See SWIMMERS on Page 26



Kimura

Tammy

Susupe barges into win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

**DLX
BASKETBALL** Susupe snapped its three-game losing skid in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League after outclassing the ICS Shooters, 68-61, in the lone match played last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

A third-quarter assault allowed Susupe to gain more ground against the ICS Shooters (1-3) and the former sealed the win in the fourth from the foul line.

With the game tied at 30-all at halftime, Susupe outgunned the ICS Shooters in the third period, 24-13, to open a double-digit lead entering the fourth canto, 54-43. Chris Lansang and Nat "Toto" Banatasa teamed up in the third-quarter attack with the former making two triples and scoring 9 points and the latter drilling Susupe's last 6 points in that period after being held to one field goal in the first half.

Down by 11, the ICS Shooters failed to recover in the payoff period, as it just traded baskets with Susupe in the fourth and only Lawrence Espinosa canned more than two field goals in the

See SUSUPE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Susupe's Nat "Toto" Banatasa goes up for a shot in an earlier loss to Maplas La Mani during their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong league last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Susupe broke into the win column last Friday after beating the ICS Shooters, 68-61.